THURSDAY
August 7, 2025

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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China's stand has lessons for a vulnerable India

Determined moves to safeguard economy

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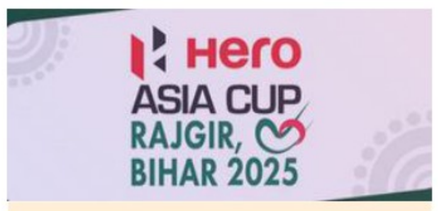

BIG DECISION

Pakistan pulls out of Asia Cup hockey

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NEARBY

KPCL records 3,361.54 MU in July post rains

BENGALURU
As reservoirs filled up in Karnataka following the monsoon, Karnataka Power Corporation Limited generated a record quantum of 3,361.54 million units (MU) in July making it the highest quantum of generation in a month.
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K-RIDE to get full-time MD

BENGALURU
After nearly three years of functioning under in-charge officials, K-RIDE is set to appoint a full-time managing director (MD) soon. » PAGE 2

Trump raises U.S. tariffs on Indian imports to 50%

U.S. President signs executive order for 25% tariff on Indian goods on top of the 25% announced on July 31; one part takes effect from today, the other after 21 days; 'extremely unfortunate', says MEA

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday signed an executive order imposing an additional 25% tariff on imports from India, in response to India "directly or indirectly" importing oil from Russia. This is over and above the 25% tariff on Indian imports that Mr. Trump approved on July 31.

While the initial 25% tariff will come into effect from Thursday, the additional 25% tariff will come into effect after 21 days.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), in response, said it has made its stand clear – through an earlier statement following Mr. Trump's threat of additional tariffs – that these actions were "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable". It was "extremely unfortunate" that the U.S. has chosen this course of action, the MEA said.

"To deal with the national emergency described in Executive Order 14066 [relating to Russia's actions in Ukraine], I determine that it is necessary and appropriate to impose an additional *ad valorem* duty on imports of articles of India, which is directly or indirectly importing Russian Federation oil," Mr. Trump's executive order said. "Accordingly, and as consistent with applicable law, articles of India imported into the customs territory of the United States shall be subject to an additional *ad valorem* rate of duty of 25%," it added. Over the last few days, Mr. Trump has repeatedly threatened additional tariffs on India as a "penalty" for its oil imports from Russia.

In response to one such threat, the MEA on Monday pointed out that, not only did the U.S. encourage such trade previously, both the European Union and the U.S. actively trade other items with Russia in excess of the amount that India pays for Russian oil.

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'ECONOMIC BLACKMAIL'
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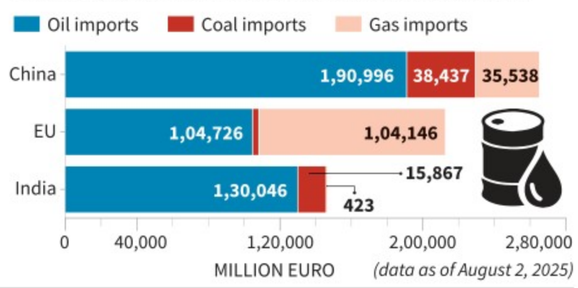
Singling out India

Trump's rationale for tariffs on India for its oil trade with Moscow overlooks a key fact: all goods combined, China and EU have imported more from Russia since its invasion of Ukraine



SOURCE: CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON ENERGY AND CLEAN AIR (CREA)

SC seeks EC's response on omissions from Bihar rolls

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Election Commission (EC) to give a detailed response to an application seeking the particulars and reason for each of the 65 lakh voters deleted from the Bihar draft electoral roll.

The draft roll was published on August 1 as part of the special intensive revision (SIR) in the poll-bound State.

A Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant told the poll body to file the particulars by Saturday. A hearing has already been scheduled for August 12. The application, orally mentioned by advocates Prashant Bhushan and Neha Rathi for urgent hearing, said the reasons for deletion of the voters were various, including deaths, permanent shifting out of the State, duplication of names, and untraceability. However, the reason for removing each name is not individually shown, either constituency-wise or booth-wise, in the draft roll.

"Direct the publication of a full and final Assembly constituency and part/booth wise list of names and details of approximately 65 lakh electors whose enumeration forms were not submitted along with reasons for non-submission against each name," the application sought.

The applicants have also asked for the publication of lists of electors whose enumeration forms have been marked 'not recommended by the BLOs [Booth Level Officers]'.

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Roll revisions

The table shows the districts in Bihar with the highest and lowest deletions (in %) in the draft SIR roll released on August 1, 2025, compared to the electoral roll released on January 1, 2025

DISTRICTS	Highest deletions (in %)		Lowest deletions (in %)	
	Gopalganj	-14.36	Sheikhpura	-4.34
	Purnia	-10.83	Arwal	-4.95
	Kishanganj	-10.75	Nalanda	-5.21
	Bhagalpur	-9.53	Kaimur (Bhabhua)	-5.32
	Madhubani	-9.37	Paschim Champaran	-5.59

190 rescued, two bodies recovered after Uttarkashi floods

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Around 190 people were rescued from Dharali town in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand on Wednesday, a day after devastating flash floods wreaked havoc, leaving scores missing and the town covered in mud and slush. Rescue teams also recovered two bodies from the site.

Bad weather continued to hamper rescue efforts, with roads to the area blocked by mud and boulders following landslides triggered by heavy rainfall. Rivers across the State remained above danger levels after continuous downpour over the past 50 hours.

Uttarakhand's Disaster Management and Rehabilitation Secretary Vinod Kumar Suman said "*prima facie*, around 15 people were missing from the disaster spot". Efforts were under way to ensure that the rescue teams were able to work continuously, he added.

Tireless efforts

Mr. Suman said, "As many as 150 Army personnel from Rajputana Rifles and 12 jawans from Ghatak battalion are working tirelessly in the rescue operations in Dharali while 100 personnel of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police [ITBP] are also assisting... Around 40 Army personnel are walking to the disaster site from Nelong valley while a 50-member team of the Army's medical wing has reached till Tekla." Around 80 jawans of the State Disaster Response Force were stuck in Papadgadh due to landslips, he added.

Additionally, 130 ITBP personnel are expected to reach the site on Thursday.

EDITORIAL
» PAGE 10

War footing: Army personnel undertake a search-and-rescue operation at Dharali in Uttarkashi on Wednesday following the flash floods. PTI

SC sets aside Madras HC order limiting State scheme names

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday dismissed as "misconceived" and an "abuse of law" a challenge raised by All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) MP C.Ve. Shanmugam to naming a Tamil Nadu government outreach programme, '*Ungaludan* Stalin', after the Chief Minister.

A three-Judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai set aside a Madras High Court order, passed in Mr. Shanmugham's petition, imposing "sweeping restrictions" on the Tamil Nadu government from naming State welfare schemes after "any living personality". The DMK had appealed the High Court's July 31 restraining order in the Supreme Court.

Senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi and P. Wilson, appearing for the DMK, argued the High Court order had operated as a "*de facto* injunction" on the elected government in Tamil Nadu from formulating and implementing public welfare schemes. Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi appeared for the State government in a separate petition.

The Bench dismissed the pending case instituted by Mr. Shanmugham in the High Court with costs of ₹10 lakh. The MP has to pay the costs to the State government to be used in welfare programmes.

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Petrol lobbies behind E20 fuel fear campaign: Gadkari

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Tests show that older vehicles are not damaged in any way by using a new petrol blend with a higher 20% of ethanol, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said on Wednesday, blaming the social media outrage against the new E20 blend on a "political conspiracy", possibly fuelled by petrol lobbies.

Speaking at *The Hindu* Mind event, a conversation series in the national capital, Mr. Gadkari emphasised that making the switch to biofuels helped put the country on the path to self-reliance by cutting oil imports, and also reduces pollution and saves farmers' lives by ensuring they received a higher value for their crops.

While new E20-tuned vehicles have started rolling out from April 2025, existing owners are concerned about the impact on their older vehicles and a surge in maintenance costs. "Pune-based Automotive Research Association of India has tested old vehicles on a total distance of one lakh kilometres and not found any problems," the Minister said.

Asked whether the cheaper ethanol variant would result in lower petrol costs for the end user, given that there is also a 5% to 6% drop in mileage, Mr. Gadkari said that determining petrol prices was not under his domain. While he acknowledged an impact on vehicle mileage, he enumerated several benefits that accrued to the country due to the transition to E20, a fuel blend that comprises 20% ethanol produced from plant products such as sugarcane, rice, and maize, and 80% gasoline.

He said the transition to blended fuel started in 2001, when Atal Behari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister. The then Petroleum Minister sent a delegation to Brazil, of which Mr. Gadkari was a part.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Nistula Hebbar, political editor at *The Hindu*, presents a book to Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

YouTubers, TV news channel reporter attacked in Dharmasthala

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Tension prevailed in Dharmasthala on Wednesday after three YouTubers were attacked by a group of persons at Pangala in the temple town. Police used lathis to disperse the group.

Sources said the YouTubers were attacked while interviewing Big Boss fame Rajat who had returned after meeting the family members of Soujanya, who was allegedly raped and murdered near Dharmasthala in 2013.

The YouTubers, Ajay Anchan, Abhishek and Vijay, were questioned by a group over their reports on the SIT investigation. There was heated exchange of words between the YouTubers and the group and the group reportedly prevented the YouTubers from recording it and attacked them.

Their two vehicles and cameras were reportedly also damaged in the incident.

A few minutes after the attack in Dharmasthala, Harish, a reporter with Asianet Suvarna news, was also allegedly attacked by a group at a private hospital in Ujirenear Dharmasthala. Sources said the television reporter was attacked when he was coming out of the hospital after speaking with the three YouTubers admitted for treatment.

Meanwhile, a large number of people staged protest in front of Dharmasthala police station in the evening stating that the YouTubers were "damaging the reputation of the temple town" by airing "baseless reports" on the ongoing investigation by the SIT into the alleged burials in Dharmasthala village.

K. Arun, Dakshina Kannada SP, qusaid in a statement that there was no grievous injury to any one admitted to the hospital.

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Recharged and revitalised — Nikhat Zareen 2.0

The boxer reflects on her takeaways from the disappointment of the Paris 2024 Olympics, striking the right balance between career and life, staying in the present and more

PTI

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

"Hyderabad is known for two things: the delicious biryani and its very own boxing *ki rani*."

Nikhat Zareen's wit, which is as sharp as her punches, was in full flow at an event in Hyderabad recently when she one-upped the emcee with a quick lesson on how to work on his introductions.

And yet, in that quip, was also an indication of how Nikhat views herself and a gentle reminder to everyone that her self-confidence, which had taken a beating a year ago in Paris, has been rebuilt.

Last year, having exited the Paris Olympics much earlier than expected, Nikhat was understandably distraught. Time has passed and this Nikhat is wiser and kinder to herself.

"There are a lot of things that have happened in the past. I don't want to focus on negatives. I just want to focus on the positive things that I have learned from Paris. It was a memorable competition for me. Not everyone gets the chance to represent India at the Olympics. I count myself lucky that at least I had the opportunity to go to the Olympics," she said in a chat with *The Hindu*.

Not written in the stars

If the Paris Olympics taught Nikhat anything, it is that there are many more factors beyond hard work and self-belief that contribute to clinching an Olympic medal.

"Paris was my first experience at the Olympics. I used to hear a lot about the Olympics from my seniors, about how it is not an easy event, how winning other competitions is easier. It's not easy because once you go there, there are a lot of expectations from you and a lot of pressure from everyone," she said.

"But when I went to the Olympics, what I experienced is that it's not just about working hard and having that belief in you that you can win medals. Sometimes it's also about destiny, it's also about luck. Sometimes that also matters a lot in your journey."

When she landed in the French capital, Nikhat had her eyes on two boxers: China's Wu Yu and Turkey's Buse Naz Cakiroglu. While she was far from afraid of facing them, she also did not want to meet either until the very end.

Fate, however, had other plans.

A series of unfortunate events

"My only hope was that these two boxers should not face me in the initial rounds and that they should face me in the semifinals or the final. Unfortunately, I faced one of them, the Chinese girl, in the early rounds. It was bad luck," she said, recalling her defeat to the then reigning Asian Games champion.

That was not the only thing that went wrong for her there.

"That bout was in the morning at 11 o'clock. There was no time for recovery, and we also had no air conditioning in Paris. If you take everything, it was quite clear that it (succeeding there) was not written in my destiny," Nikhat brushed off with a laugh.

Her otherwise *bindaas* and steely persona dropped and she admitted, not for the first time, that she let herself go after the Paris Olympics.

"As soon as I came back from Paris, I ate everything at home. I ate everything that I do not usually eat. I gained 7 kgs as soon as I came back, within one month. I know that's very unhealthy, but what can I do? That time, my mindset was like that. I didn't care about anything. I didn't want to talk to anyone. I didn't want to go anywhere," she explained.

She was coaxed out of this rut first by Bella, the golden retriever she and her sister adopted, and then by a trip away from home, where she could recharge her spirits away from the cacophony of daily life.

"I sat and thought that this was not going to help me. It would only spoil me. I needed to get out of that zone. I do not want to overthink and stay in the shadow of disappointment. I didn't want to be in that disappointment phase. I want to move on and come back stronger. I'm in that phase of life. So I decided to go on a trip to Kashmir, which really helped me to come back."

In her enthusiasm to get back on track, she began to work twice as hard and picked up a meniscus injury, which pushed her to the sidelines for almost four months. She returned to the ring at the Elite Women's Boxing Tournament in Hyderabad, her focus being on joining the elite national camp.

The two-time World champion and home favourite made it to the final in the 51kg category, but had to pull out before her bout with Jyoti due to a minor injury.

"Sometimes I feel like *meri kismat hi kharaab hai* (my destiny is bad)! Maybe no one is as unlucky as I am."

"These challenges break me, but they also make me stronger. Each obstacle makes me stronger and hungrier to achieve my goals. It's an interesting journey going on in my life right now. I am enjoying whatever life is throwing my way. I always tell myself, 'Nikhat, you are stronger. You are stronger than ever. You can handle this.' Always."

Nikhat also credited Sunny, a Sports Authority of India coach, with whom she began working this year, for helping her get back on course.

"I spoke to the federation and TOPS about needing a coach and finally decided to work under Sunny. I was training in ASI Pune for five months under him, and he has helped me regain my fitness levels. He has played a major role after the Paris Olympics in helping me get back into the national team."

Present perfect

The 29-year-old is just an Olympics old but has learnt the hard lesson of compartmentalising the intensity of the ring. Living in the present, she admits, is as imperative to her success in the ring as it is to her peace outside it.

"I know what I want in my life. At the same time, I just don't want to be blindly focused on that because when you don't get that, then you're totally shattered. That is what happened in Paris. Every time in my mind, there was only the thought of winning a medal. I left everything for it. I didn't eat junk food for so long. I didn't focus on eating sweets because I followed a strict diet. But what happened in Paris? I got broken. Literally broken. I'm pushing myself every day, telling myself that whatever has happened in the past is in the past. Let's see what the future holds for me. Paris has taught me to focus on the present. I don't care what the future holds for me, what it brings in my life."

The two big events on this year's calendar are the World Boxing Championships and the Boxing World Cup, while the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics is already on the back of everyone's minds.

"I just don't want to put pressure on myself like, 'Oh, what will happen in the World Championship? What will happen in LA?' No, I just want to live in the present and give my 100% in training and just enjoy my workouts, enjoy the game. I don't want to ruin my present thinking about the future. I just want to enjoy my training, enjoy my life.

Nikhat is too much of a free spirit to allow room for regret and realises that finding joy in life need not be on pause just to accommodate sporting excellence.

"Being an athlete, you have to be focused and disciplined. But at the same time, I have my life also. I know that once I leave boxing, when I look back, I'll regret that didn't do this and that. At the same time, I also want to live to the fullest. I want to do everything. I want to win a medal, I want to work hard, and I want to enjoy life. Because you only live once."

Nikhat has now made it to the Indian team heading to Liverpool, England, for the World Boxing Championships in September, where she will be in action on the international stage for the first time since the Paris Olympics.

"I'm working hard again. I am seeing this as the start of my Olympic cycle. So I'll keep pushing myself. This is my first competition after the Paris Olympics, and I'll have butterflies in my stomach when I go there.

"But once I enter the ring, my mind will be set only on winning that match and the competition."

Nikhat forced her way onto the scene as a teenager, taking a circuitous route to the top, via stardom at the sub-junior nationals and Youth World Championships and ostracism for daring to challenge the legendary Mary Kom.

She remained undeterred then and is even more resolute now. Amidst all the doubters and critics, she cuts a very confident figure, like a lone show of human will in the path of history.

"I'm still that Nikhat Zareen who has that hunger to achieve and make the country proud.

"I'm happy that I'm finally back in the national team. Now the focus is on winning the medal."

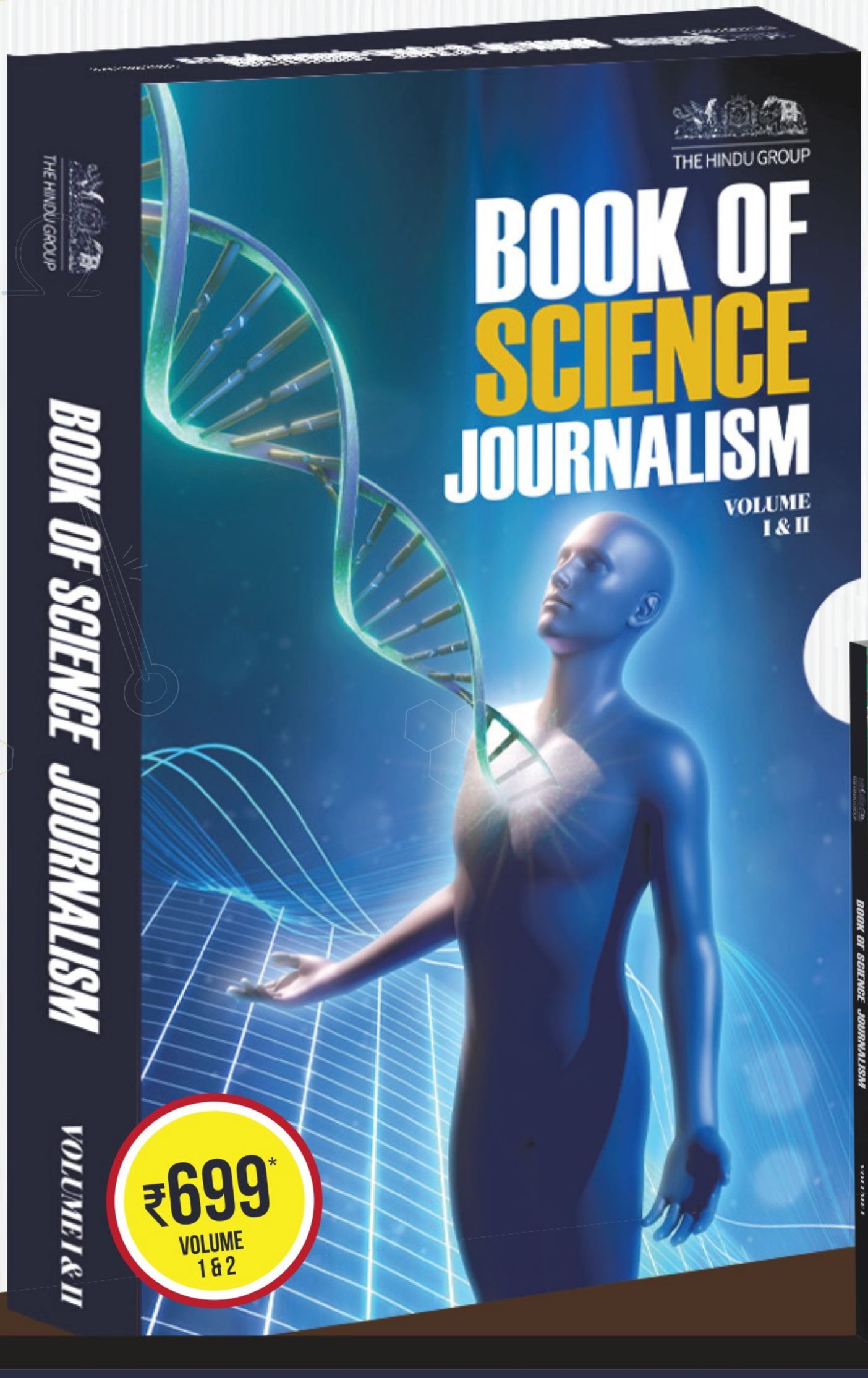
THE GIST

- If the Paris Games taught Nikhat anything, it is that there are many more factors beyond hard work and self-belief that contribute to clinching an Olympic medal
- The 29-year-old has learnt the hard lesson of compartmentalising the intensity of the ring. Living in the present is what she has now embraced
- She now heads to the World Boxing Championships, her first international event after Paris, with renewed self-belief and the hunger to make her country proud

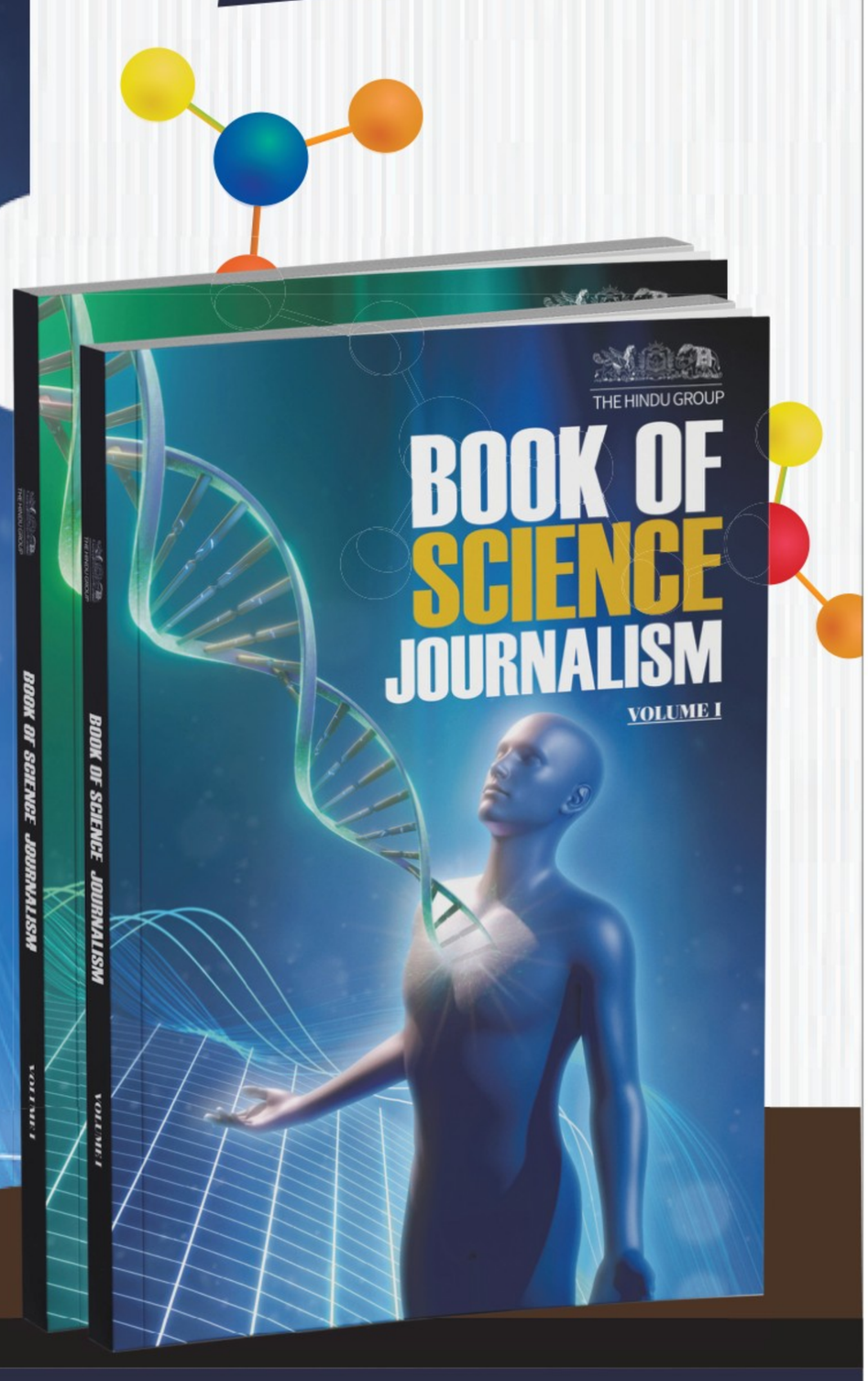
THE HINDU GROUP

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

The Hindu Book of Science Journalism vol. I and II is a collection of 100 articles published over two years showcasing some of the best English-language science journalism in India. The articles sweep a broad range of topics across both the physical and the life sciences. They sensitively interrogate scientific ideas while navigating the human choices and aspirations that motivate them.



NEW ARRIVAL



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ED attaches cash in account of prime accused in 2022 Mangaluru blast case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Continuing its probe into the Mangaluru autorickshaw blast in 2022, the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) provisionally attached one movable property in the form of a bank balance, to the extent of ₹29,176, of the prime accused, Syed Yasin, under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), on Tuesday.

According to the official release, the ED initiated an investigation on the basis of an FIR registered based on a complaint by K. Purushottama, an autorickshaw driver, regarding the explosion on November 19, 2022.

The NIA has been probing the case, where the charge sheet claimed that the blast was carried out by terror operatives with allegiance to ISIS.

"Investigation revealed that the ISIS online handler named 'Colonel' had given training over Wicker app/ Telegram to the main accused Mohammad Shariq alias Premraj and other accused persons, to make improvised explosive devices (IED) and also organised funds through certain mule accounts and also through cryptocurrencies which were at times encashed by Syed Yasin and Mohammad Shariq, through their contacts, for a commission and at some instances the encashed cryptocurrencies were routed through fraudulently opened mule accounts in FINO Payments Bank," the ED said.

"In the above manner, amount of ₹2,86,008 was deposited by different cryptocurrency dealers in the mule accounts and ₹41,680 was collected in cash from agents. The said amount was utilised for buying items online to assemble the IED and for hiring hideouts in Mysuru city and other places and also for conducting recce at various places in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka and specifically the above said bomb was supposed to be planted at Dharmasthala Manjunatha Swamy temple," ED claimed.

It had exploded in the autorickshaw as the bomb timer was set as nine seconds instead of 90 minutes. Another accused Maaz Munir was the person who provided the details of the above FINO payments bank mule accounts to Mohammad Shariq to receive the various payments sent by the online handler 'Colonel', the probe agenc y said.

"The amounts had been spent for the said purposes and the amount of ₹39,228 seized from the bag of Mohammed Shariq at the Father Muller Hospital by the Karnataka police which was eventually seized by the NIA. Hence, the present amount available in the bank account of Syed Yasin has been attached," the ED added in the release.

K-RIDE to finally get full-time MD after gap of nearly 3 years

The position has remained vacant since 2021; since then, various IAS officers have been handling the post as an additional responsibility

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Indian Railways is in the final stages of selecting a candidate to lead the organisation, which is responsible for executing the long-delayed Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project. FILE PHOTO

After nearly three years of functioning under in-charge officials, the Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited (K-RIDE) is set to appoint a full-time managing director (MD) soon. Indian Railways is in the final stages of selecting a candidate to lead the organisation, which is responsible for executing the long-delayed Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project (BSRP).

The position of full-time MD at K-RIDE has remained vacant since 2021. Since then, various IAS officers have been handling the post as an additional responsibility.

In June this year, K-RIDE issued a vacancy notice inviting applications from officers of the Central Group 'A' services for a three-year deputation term.

Sources told *The Hindu* that a technically qualified professional is likely to be appointed shortly. "Constructing suburban railway lines adjacent to live railway tracks where high-speed trains operate is not an easy task. It requires domain knowledge and hands-on engineering expertise. A technocrat with a lot of experience will be better equipped to address these challenges and accelerate project implementation," a senior K-RIDE official said.

K-RIDE is a joint venture between the Government of Karnataka and the Ministry of Railways

K-RIDE is a joint venture between the Government of Karnataka and the Ministry of Railways. Karnataka, which holds a 51% stake, has consistently favoured posting senior IAS officers from the State cadre to the top position.

Since Amit Garg's transfer in August 2022, the organisation has not had a regular MD. Senior bureaucrats Gaurav Gupta and N. Manjula have served as interim MDs, with Ms. Manjula currently continuing in the role while also serving as Secretary to the Infrastructure Development, Ports and Inland Water Transport Departments.

The BSRP spans 149.35 km and includes four corridors: Sampige (KSR Bengaluru-Devanahalli, 41.4 km), Mallige (Benniganahalli-Chikkabanavara, 25.01 km), Parijaata (Kengeri-Whitefield, 35.52 km), and Kanaka (Heelalige-Rajanukunte, 46.24 km). Of these, only Corridor-2 (Mallige) has witnessed some progress in construction, with less than 30% completion.

The appointment of a new MD comes at a crucial time when two contracts pertaining to Corridor-2 and Corridor-4 were recently terminated by Larsen & Toubro (L&T), one of the key contractors involved in the project. K-RIDE officials have stated that this termination violates the terms and conditions of the agreement, further complicating an already delayed and technically challenging project.

Govt. mulls expansion of gastroenterology institute on Victoria Hospital premises

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday said the proposal to expand the Institute of Gastroenterology Sciences and Organ Transplant (IGOT) on the premises of Victoria Hospital in Bengaluru would be considered soon.

During a surprise inspection of IGOT, Trauma and Emergency Care Centre (TECC) and Vani Vilas Hospital's triage zone on the premises of Victoria Hospital, affiliated to Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI), the Chief Minister said there was a need to increase the current 120 beds at IGOT to 300 as people from across the country were seeking treatment here.

"Liver transplants usually cost ₹30 lakh to ₹40 lakh in the private sector, but they are done for free here. A proposal on the expansion is already with the government and will be considered soon," the Chief Minister said.

The Chief Minister, who was accompanied by Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil, interacted with the patients, including a few from Bihar and other States.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah interacting with patients at Victoria Hospital on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

> Liver transplants usually cost ₹30 lakh to ₹40 lakh in the private sector, but they are done for free here. A proposal on the expansion is already with the govt. and will be considered soon
> **SIDDARAMAIAH,** Chief Minister

'Need to raise capacity'

"People from across the country come to Victoria Hospital. There is overcrowding. So there is a need to increase its capacity," he said.

Calling upon the doctors to treat patients with compassion and empathy, the Chief Minister said, "As people are getting free treatment here, there will be too much pressure on the doctors. I have told them to be compassionate."

During the visit, the Chief Minister and the Medical Education Minister checked the quality of food being served in the hospital canteen and tasted it.

Responding to queries about private ambulance drivers fleecing patients as government ambulances were not available, Mr. Siddaramaiah said that people could utilise 108 ambulance services.

BWSSB to hold water adalat today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BWSSB will conduct a water adalat on Thursday from 9.30 a.m. to 11 a.m. to address concerns over water billing, delays in water supply, sanitary connections, and the process of converting domestic connections to non-domestic ones.

The water adalat will be held at BEML Layout, near ITPL, 4th Main Road, Kundalahalli Main Road1st Block, 9th D Main, Service Road, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar; South East 1: Swami Vivekananda Road, opposite Lido Mall, Halasuru, 10th Main Road, 7th Cross, behind Indiranagar Club, HAL 2nd Stage; West 1-1: Ground Floor, Arkavathi Bhavan, 5th Main, 9th Cross, RPC Layout, Vijayanagar 2nd Stage 5th Stage, 1st Main, BEML Layout, R.R. Nagar; North West-1: 4th Cross, Rajajinagar 1st N Block, behind Vidyavardhaka School, Kethamaranahalli Water Tank)Ground Floor, 7th Main, MEI Layout, Hesarghatta Road, 1st Floor, Suvarna Bhavan, 18th Cross, Margosa Road, Malleswaram; and 14th Main Road, MCECHS Layout, Phase 1, behind Shivaramkaranth Nagar Railway Track, Jakkur.

Painting competition

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The College of Fine Arts, Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Bengaluru, is organising an intercollegiate painting competition as part of Independence Day celebrations.

The competition is open to students from State PUC, ICSE, and CBSE streams across Karnataka. The competition will be held on August 14 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

For further details or to register, participants can visit the official website www.thecfa.art or email at principal@thecfa.art.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Special Land Acquisition Officer-2, No. 14/3, 1st Floor, Aravinda Bhavana Building, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru-560001.

No. : KIADB/LAQ/(K-RIDE)/323/2025-26 Date: 01.08.2025

PUBLIC NOTICE (UNDER SECTION 28(2) OF KIAD ACT 1966)

It is hereby given publication for the information of the public that the KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD. Bengaluru has proposed to acquire the following scheduled properties for the purpose of Corridor-4 of Karnataka Rail Infrastructure Development Company Limited (K-RIDE). The Preliminary Notification Under Section 28(1) in this behalf is issued vide Notification No: CI 94 SPQ 2025 Bangalore dated: 08-07-2025 by the Government of Karnataka and the same has already been published in the Karnataka Gazette dated:10.07.2025

All the absolute owners and interested persons in the Scheduled properties specified below shall file their OBJECTIONS IF ANY to the undersigned, Notice u/s 28(2) of KIAD Act, has already been served to the notified Khatedar/Anubhavdar, interested persons. As some of the property owners refused to receive the notice and address of some of the Khatedars are not available, notices could not be served. Hence, this notice is published in the Newspapers to provide opportunity to them.

Any contracts for the disposal of the said lands by sale, Mortgage, Assignment, Exchange or otherwise or any improvement made therein without prior permission of the competent authority, after the date of publication of this notification under the provisions of KIAD Act 1966 will be disregarded while assessing compensation for such parts of the said lands as may be finally acquired.

The map of the area comprised therein and the notification specifying the lands which is proposed to be acquired may be verified in the Office of the Special Land Acquisition Officer, KIADB, (K-RIDE), Bengaluru during the office hours on all working days. Enquiry is **fixed on 11.08.2025 at 11.00 a.m.** in the Office of the Special Land Acquisition Officer-2, K.I.A.D.B. (K-RIDE), No. 14/3, 1st Floor, Aravinda Bhavana Building, Bengaluru. Interested persons are hereby requested to be present with relevant documents. Failing which, it will be consider that there is no objection from your side and further action will be taken in accordance with law.

Schedule

Sl. No.	I.D. Nos.	Property Owner	L.A/CT Sy. No.	Total Extent	Area acquired (sq.Mtr)
Enquiry Date: 11-08-2025 Time: 11.00 a.m Village : Maranayakanahalli Hobli: Athibele Taluk: Anekal District: Bengaluru Urban					
1	K-RIDE/ Doubling /BYPL/ HSRA/166/000-100/02A	Vikram Logistic and Marytime Service Pvt. Ltd., favour of K.N. Sudharsan Bhoopa, President of Indian Government (ORTH) NHAY 844	42/1	1719.89	125.23
2	K-RIDE/Doubling/ BYPL-HSRA/166/ 000-100/02				51.43
3	K-RIDE/Doubling/ BYPL-HSRA/166/ 000-100/03	Vikram Logistic and Marytime Service Pvt. Ltd., favour of K.N. Sudharsan Bhoopa, President of Indian Government (ORTH) NHAY 844	42/3	17805.92	7.30
4	K-RIDE/Doubling / BYPL/HSRA/166/ 000-100/02	Pillayya S/o Kariyappa , Ramakrishnappa S/o Muniveerappa Muniraju C S/o Chikkapapanna Muniraju C S/o Chikkapapanna	43/2	6778.39	268.48
5	K-RIDE/Doubling / BYPL/HSRA/166/ 000-100/01A	1. Gopal C S/o Chikkapapanna 2. Muniraju C S/o Chikkapapanna President of Indian Government (ORTH) NHAY 844	43/3	12140.40	343.90
6	K-RIDE/Doubling/ BYPL-HSRA/166/ 000-100/01				171.29
7	K-RIDE/Doubling / BYPL/HSRA/165/ 800-900/03	1. Shya. Inanthi 2. Vikram Logistic and Marytime Service Pvt Ltd favour of K.N. Sudharsan Bhoopa, 3.Vikram Logistic and Marytime Service Pvt.Ltd favour of K.N. Sudharsan Bhoopa, 4. President of Indian Government (ORTH) NHAY 844	46/1	33891.95	298.49
8	K-RIDE/Doubling/ BYPL-HSRA/165/ 800-900/03				436.76
9	K-RIDE/Doubling / BYPL/HSRA/165/ 500-600/05A	A.R. Venugopala reddy S/o Late Ramareddy	49/2	2630.42	603.44
10	K-RIDE/Doubling/ BYPL-HSRA/165/ 500-600/05				445.71
11	K-RIDE/Doubling/ BYPL-HSRA/165/ 600-700/04	1. Muniraju S/o late KolataMuniyappa 2. C.Krishnappa S/o Chikkamadappa 3. Venkatesh S/o late Muniswamappa 4. Nagarathnamma W/o Venkatesh, 5. S.Pillappa S/o Late Sonnallappa 6. Govt., School	50/4	12443.91	641.75
12	K-RIDE/Doubling / BYPL/HSRA/165/ 700-800/06A	S.Muniyappa S/o Sadappa Shamalamma W/o Late Jayarama	51/5	6183.51	56.91
13	K-RIDE/Doubling / BYPL/HSRA/165/ 700-800/07	S.Muniyappa S/o Sadappa Shamalamma W/o Late Jayarama	51/6	7490.01	655.32
14	K-RIDE/Doubling/ BYPL-HSRA/165/ 700-800/06	S.Muniyappa jayaram S/o Sadappa	51/6		100.29

Sd/- Special Land Acquisition Officer, K.I.A.D.B. (K.R.I.D.E.,) Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned government of Karnataka undertaking)
CIN Number: U04010KA2002SGC030436

No. GESCOM/SEE (Procurement)/EE/AEE/25-26/32792-96 Date: 05.08.2025

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPP portal mode only)

PC-1472 : Manufacture and supply of Type-II Uninhibited Transformer oil as per GESCOM technical specification (Tender Amount: **Rs. 1029.28 Lakhs)**
Dates: Bid documents available at KPP Portal: on or after **07.08.2025.** Last Date for Bid submission, Opening of Technical Bid and opening of price Bid: As per KPP Portal.
Bidder Qualifying Requirements: As per tender documents (IFB): For additional information Contact: Superintending Engineer El., Procurement, Corporate Office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi-585102. Mobile: 94484 99997. Web Site Address: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For information about the KPP portal, contact the helpline at +91 – 8046010000/8068948777/ 9240214000/ 9240214001or e-mail address: **support@eprochelpdesk.com**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Procurement), GESCOM, Corporate Office, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/364/KSMC&A/2025-26

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ଶକ୍ତି ସଂଚାରଣ ନିଗମ ଲିଃ
(ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଏକ ଉପକ୍ରମ)
ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office: OPTCL Tech Tower, Janpath, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Bids are invited from reputed manufacturers under two-part bidding system:

E-Tender No.	Tender Description:	Estimated Cost
CPC-19/2025-26	**Lot-I:** Procurement of 1 no. of 400kV,125 MVAR Bus Reactor.	Rs.18,17,90,031.70
	Lot-II: Procurement of 2 nos. of 400kV,80 MVAR Line Reactor with 132kV, 80 MVAR NGR for each reactor.	Rs.32,36,01,388.32
CPC-20/2025-26	Procurement of 2 nos. of 100MVA,220/33kV Power Transformer.	Rs.30,75,41,402.74
SGM-SZ-BAM-04/2025-26	Various Civil works to be carried out at 220kV PGCIL (1&3) dia. of 220/132/33kV Grid S/S, Jayanagar under EHT (O&M) Division, Jayanagar under Southern Zone, Berhampur.	Rs.34,71,316.00

Complete set of bidding documents are available at **www.optcl.co.in.**

CAD-1409
OIPR-04011/11/0201/2526 /optcl.odisha /optcl_odisha HIPR-27/2025-26

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public are hereby notified that, my clients have entered into an agreement to purchase the Schedule property from its Owners: **(1)Sri.M.GIRISH S/o late Mudalagiraiah, his wife (2)Smt.H.RAJYASHREE and their children namely, (3)Smt.ASHWINI GIRI, (4)Smt.SHALINI GIRI & (5)Smt.ANATHA GIRI,** residing at Chikkayyana Palya, Nagavalli Post, Hebburu, Tumkur-572120 and also at No.64, New No.78, Shop Street, NR Colony, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004

Apart from the said Owners, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title, interest or claim over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, sub-lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s or claims with the undersigned (along with the photocopies of the documents based on which they rely for asserting their rights), **within 14 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Vacant Residential Land bearing Khatha No.92/Sy.No.84/5, New E-PID No.6033546748, admeasuring 28,314 Sq.ft., along with Kharab land of 25 Guntas, situated at Kammanahalli Gramatana, Bengaluru-560083, within the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Ward No.192-Begur Ward and bounded on the:

East by : Road
West by : Land bearing Re-Sy.No.83
North by : 4 Guntas in Sy.No.84/5 and then NICE Road
South by : Land bearing Re-Sy.No.85

Sd/- **S.F. GOUTAM CHAND**, Advocate,
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES,
No.60, 2nd Floor, Old Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bengaluru - 560004

‘It’s like writing a poem’: maths prize winner Rajula Srivastava

Rajula Srivastava has won the Maryam Mirzakhani New Frontiers Prize for her work in harmonic analysis and analytic number theory. She discovered her love of maths in school, and then went on to major at the National Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhubaneshwar

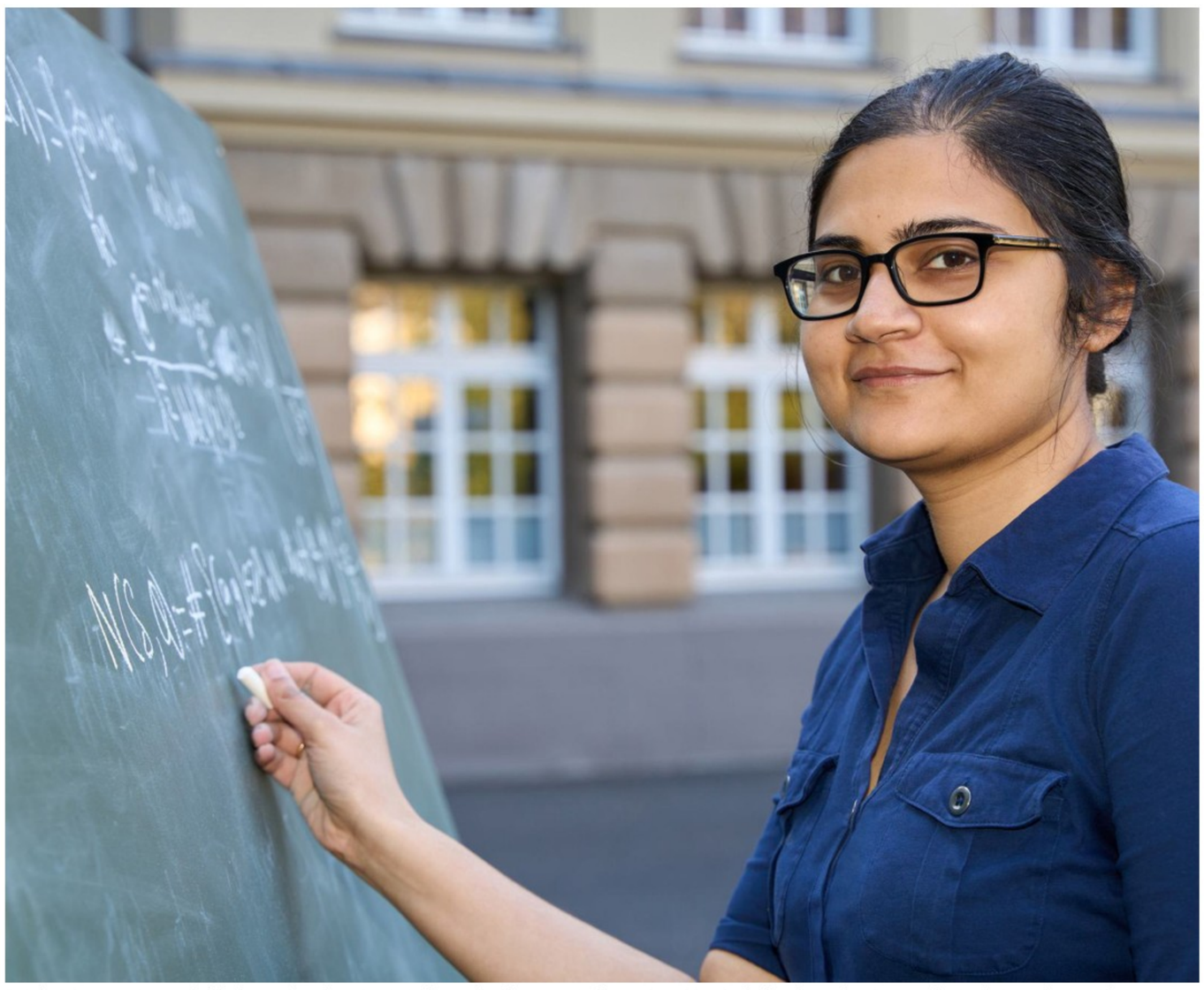
Rohini Subrahmanyam

When Rajula Srivastava was first notified about a prestigious prize, she was quick to dismiss it. All she got was a cryptic email from the personal email address of mathematician Terence Tao asking if she was free for a chat. Tao, a professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, is widely considered one of the most gifted mathematicians of our time. Srivastava couldn’t think of a reason why he would want to talk to her.

“I obviously thought it was a scam,” she said.

But then she got a second email from him ten minutes later, asking to Zoom. After ascertaining that the email was not fake, she proceeded to cautiously respond. During their chat, Tao broke the news that she had won the Maryam Mirzakhani New Frontiers Prize, an initiative of the Breakthrough Prize in Mathematics, for her work in harmonic analysis and analytic number theory. She couldn’t believe it.

“I told him I thought it was a scam, and he found that very funny, [saying] ‘maybe I want to scam a theorem out of you or something,’” she said with a laugh. “It was surreal, the way [the call] went.”



Rajula Srivastava is grateful for her early education in India and to the many Indian universities, including hers, that invest a lot in their students with scholarships and low fees. GREGOR HÜBL/UNI BONN/SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A fondness for puzzles

Srivastava, a Hirzebruch Research Instructor at the University of Bonn and the Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in Germany, grew up in a science-loving family.

In school, mathematics happened to be the subject she enjoyed the most among all the sciences: because it involved the least amount of memorisation. “Once you understand the logic behind things, you don’t have to memorize a lot of things … beyond the multiplication tables in kindergarten,” she said.

She also realised she didn’t like doing lab work, but she did enjoy solving puzzles. At the age of 15, she decided she wanted to be a mathematician and went on to do an integrated master’s degree at the National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER), Bhubaneshwar, where she majored in maths.

She then wrote her master’s thesis in harmonic analysis, the study of functions and how they can be represented in terms of their frequencies – a topic she had begun to like. For her PhD, she chose to go to the University of Wisconsin-Madison mainly because of its big harmonic analysis group.

Just like music can be broken down into harmonies, signals can be broken down into the frequencies that make them up. “But you need to be able to do it in a sensible way, so that the information you have in this breakdown should be such that you should be able to reconstruct your complicated signal once more from these pieces,” Srivastava explained.

That’s the basic idea of harmonic analysis, where one breaks down functions in terms of their frequencies or “harmonics” using a method called the Fourier transformation. One can imagine these frequencies to lie on a line, but you can also ask these questions in higher dimensions, Srivastava said. “Then it’s also about geometry, about the patterns and the shapes in which these waves are arranged.”

To imagine a three-dimensional wave, picture a sound wave travelling in all directions via the molecules in air, or the ripples from an earthquake as it reverberates through the ground. In each case, there is a point at which the vibration originates, and the emanating waves then form the shape of a sphere. The vibrations travel radially outwards, perpendicular to the expanding wave. Her work mostly focused on waves in three or even higher dimensions.

Spotting numbers on a line

After her PhD, Srivastava went on to do her postdoctoral research in Germany, accepting a joint position between the mathematics department at the University of Bonn and the Max Planck Institute of Mathematics at Bonn. In her time there, from 2022 to 2024, she started diverging into problems at the interface of harmonic analysis and number theory.

Her husband, who is also a mathematician and a number theorist, first introduced her to counting problems. More than the potential applications of the number theoretical problems, however, Srivastava was motivated by sheer curiosity. With her expertise in harmonic analysis, she knew she had a bag of tools at her disposal. Could she now use them to count things?

She offered a simple example. While positioning integers on the number line, we learn that rational numbers have an exact address on the line. Even if it is a fraction, like say 5/7, the number line can be chopped up into smaller and smaller parts until we have an exact location for it. Irrational numbers don’t have an exact address, but one can still make a well-educated guess.

“We can say that it’s between 1/1,000,000 and 2/1,000,000, [for example], which is a very tiny part and use those fractions to approximate your point,” she explained. “You’re saying up to this error, it is between these two fractions.”

But she worked on a similar question in higher dimensions. Instead of a line, imagine a three-dimensional shape like a sphere. Now if the point you want to map is somewhere on the manifold of this shape, what can you say about its approximability? “That’s how the geometry comes in,” she said.

In higher dimensions, the fractions lie on a grid or lattice instead of being equally spaced on a one-dimensional number line. “So I have a lattice, and I have a shape inside the lattice. And then I’m asking: how close can points of this lattice get to points on the manifold?”

That’s how the two ideas – of harmonic analysis and counting points in 3D space – converge. “If you know that your waves live on a nice shape, then you know something about those waves or [their] frequencies,” she said. As both the wave frequencies and lattices are periodic, she worked on using the waves’ periodicity to count points on a shape within a lattice. Working on these problems eventually went on to win her the Maryam Mirzakhani New Frontiers Prize.

> In math, you pretty much just need pen and paper. You can be anywhere, and you can just start thinking about the problem
>
> **RAJULA SRIVASTAVA**
> HIRZEBRUCH RESEARCH INSTRUCTOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BONN AND THE MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR MATHEMATICS

More conferences in India

Even as one of only two women out of the 25 students doing maths in her department at NISER, she didn’t feel any specific barriers to her progress during her integrated master’s program in India. She was confident, doing well in her exams, and didn’t have the need to constantly prove herself to others. But that changed when she went abroad: now she was not only a woman, but she was also non-white. She eventually formed a community and received support from both men and women, but she still felt some alienation at the start when she moved out of India.

“You feel that you need to prove yourself more. You have less of a community to fall back on because there’s just less of you,” Srivastava said. “Sometimes if you’re the only brown woman in the room, you also somehow feel that you’re scrutinised more. Like, if you’re asking a question, then it better be a good question, not something stupid.” She thinks things are changing now, though, with more women of colour doing maths.

Srivastava is coming full circle in her own career. Currently a visiting research fellow at the University of Edinburgh, she will soon move back to the University of Wisconsin-Madison and continue working on the intersection of harmonic analysis and number theory. She decided to move abroad long term because her husband is German, and it was logistically easier to move to the US than to India for both of them.

Another reason was more exposure to people and resources and being updated on new research developments, since many of the big conferences don’t happen in India. “I feel like they should do more [conferences] in developing countries, not just India, but also other countries of the Global South,” she said.

Srivastava enjoys being part of a broader community: friends and associates who all speak the common language of maths and whom she was able to meet and collaborate with on problems once she moved out of India. But she’s also grateful for her early education in India and to the many Indian universities, including hers, that invest a lot in their students with scholarships and low fees.

Like writing a poem

But doing maths can also be very frustrating at times, she said. Like when one spends most of the time researching answers to a problem instead of being able to just sit down and solve it. “Sometimes you have the broad outline, that this is how it should work. But actually implementing all the steps might take time,” she said.

“Sometimes the ideas might come in a week, but just to write things might take months.”

The rewards from small victories, like penning down one small theorem as part of a larger proof, keep her going. She also greatly values the independence of not having immediate deadlines and not needing to rely on expensive resources to work on her research questions. The latter is often the case in other fields like biology. “In math, you pretty much just need pen and paper. You can be anywhere, and you can just start thinking about [the problem],” she said. “Maybe you need a board and chalk, and that’s it.”

On a day-to-day basis, if she’s really focused on a problem, maths is almost like meditation for Srivastava. She described how some think of it like a cross between art and science. “There’s something which is just in your brain and then somehow you prove [it], and then it’s true. Once it’s true, it will always stay,” she said.

“In some ways, it’s like writing a story or a poem. I like the fact that you can create something which lasts in that way.”

(Rohini Subrahmanyam is a freelance journalist in Bengaluru. roh.subb@gmail.com)

Rajula will soon move back to the University of Wisconsin-Madison and continue working on the intersection of harmonic analysis and number theory. UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Plant flowers are unexpectedly monogamous.
MURALI KUMAR K

Most flowers usually pick one father and | stick with him

Vasudevan Mukunth

Conflicts lurk inside every flower with multiple seeds. The embryos jostle for food, the maternal and paternal genomes bargain over control, and pollen grains compete to be fertilised. Scientists have therefore wondered whether natural selection encourages one-parent broods that keep such quarrels to a minimum and, in so doing, make plant flowers unexpectedly monogamous, much like many animal families.

Scientists have also long believed that most large fruits mix the genes of several parents, a view already under fire from smaller case-studies that hinted at widespread single paternity.

In challenging that orthodoxy, a new study – including scientists from the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bengaluru and the Nature Conservancy and the Swaniti Initiative in New Delhi – provides a unifying picture of how kin conflict, pollinator behaviour, and flower design shape reproduction across the plant kingdom.

The scientists searched the research literature, focusing on papers published between 1984 and 2024, and selected 102 candidate studies. They finally shortlisted 63 species representing many flowering-plant families. For each of these species, they tracked down genetic studies that compared the DNA fingerprints of sibling seeds and converted the resulting “correlated paternity” values into a number of pollen donors per fruit.

Upon analysis, the scientists found that the headline numbers overturned the textbook story. Among the 63 species, 15 (or 24%) had strictly single paternity, and another 18 (28%) averaged fewer than 1.5 fathers per fruit. Taken together, 52% of the sample displayed de facto monogamy at the flower level. The remaining 48% did allow multiple fathers, yet even here most fruits harboured only two or three donors, a far cry from the genetic

The plant world may resemble animals more closely than once thought: single fathers dominate, with true genetic polyandry the exception rather than the rule

free-for-all that scientists once assumed was the case.

The patterns became clearer when the scientists split the species by mating system. In plants that couldn’t be mated with others of the same species, i.e. which must receive pollen from other individuals, 59% of fruits were sired by a single donor. In self-compatible plants, on the other hand, fruits had a single donor in only 41% of instances. Statistical tests also confirmed that the self-incompatible group consistently hosted fewer fathers per fruit.

The seed number also mattered less than expected. Although very large fruits sometimes had several donors, no overall rise in pollen parents accompanied an increase from tens to hundreds of seeds. Indeed, across all species, the link between seed count and paternity vanished after the scientists controlled for evolutionary relatedness.

The team also found that the breeding system, not the ancestry, best predicted paternity patterns, implying that kin conflict and pollinator precision evolve quickly when selection demands it. As a result, the plant world may resemble animals more closely than once thought: single fathers dominate, with true genetic polyandry the exception rather than the rule.

In their paper, published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* on August 5, the scientists have urged more fieldwork, especially measurements of how many individual pollinators contribute to a single pollen load, to reveal exactly when and how plants shift from monogamy to polyandry. But for now their message is clear: most flowers, even crowded ones, usually pick one father and stick with him.

mukunth.v@thehindu.co.in

For feedback and suggestions
for ‘Science’, please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject ‘Daily page’

APPOINTMENT

KBNU KHAJA BANDANAWAZ UNIVERSITY EDUCATING HUMANITY

No. 08/2025 Date: 05-08-2025

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

The Khaja Bandanawaz University invites application from the eligible citizens of India for the positions of **PROFESSORS, ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS, ASSISTANT PROFESSORS AND SENIOR RESIDENTS** in the Faculty of Medical Sciences in the following departments.

- ANATOMY,
- PHYSIOLOGY,
- BIOCHEMISTRY,
- MICROBIOLOGY,
- FORENSIC MEDICINE,
- COMMUNITY MEDICINE,
- PHARMACOLOGY,
- GENERAL MEDICINE,
- GENERAL SURGERY,
- TB & CHEST,
- RADIOLOGY,
- PSYCHIATRY.

Please visit **www.kbn.university** for further details and to fill the online application form. The last date to submit the application is 25th of August, 2025.

Registrar.

State police hat to get replaced with navy blue peaked caps

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The slouch hat for the lower rank police personnel of the Karnataka police from the British era is going to be replaced soon, as the State government on Wednesday approved the proposal to replace the hats of head constables and police constables with navy blue peaked caps.

In an order issued on Wednesday, it was stated that a meeting headed by Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) KSRP on Thursday will decide on the tender process and prepare specifications and master samples.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, trying the navy blue peaked cap. FILE PHOTO

The proposal to change the design was long-standing as the current constabulary hats were causing discomfort while on duty, especially during summer.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had given his approval to replace the slouch hats worn by constable staff during senior officials meet recently.

While officers above the sub-inspector rank wear khaki peaked hats, for head constables and constables, the department chose a different colour with minor changes in the design.

Entries invited

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Sahitya Akademi has invited applications for the Yuva Puraskar 2026 from young Indian authors across all 24 recognised Indian languages.

Eligible authors must be aged 35 or below as of January 1, 2026. Submissions can be made by individual writers or publishers and must be sent before August 31.

Further details, including submission guidelines and eligibility criteria, are available on the akademi's website.

Power shutdown on 3 days

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bescom has announced power shutdown on August 8, 9, and 10 between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m.

In view of this, the following areas will be affected. Yadavanahalli, Ichanguru, Vaddarapalya, Attibele Industrial Area, Balagaranahalli, Manchanahalli, Attibele Town, Mayasandra, Dasanapura, Balluru, Kamblipura, Chikkanahlli, Indlabele, Haraohalli, Anekal Town, Kavaluhosahalli, Gowerenahalli, Haldenahalli, Hompalagatta, Choodenahalli, Honnakalashapura, Karpuru, Byagadadenhalli, Kada Agrahara, Chikkahagade, Doddahagade, Samanduru, Rachmanahalli, Guddnahalli, Arvanatigepura, P. Gollahalli, Telgarhalli, Vanakanahalli.

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ISSN 0971 - 751X

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Public buildings made accessible by Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan

1,835 In a written reply to the Rajya Sabha, the Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment B.L.Verma said ₹564.5 crore had been released to States and Union territories for retrofitting government buildings to make them accessible. PTI

Amount cleared by Italy for world's longest suspension bridge

13.5 In billion euros. The Messina Bridge will link Sicily Island to mainland Italy, aiming to boost jobs and trade in the south. The government says the bridge includes features to withstand strong winds and seismic activity in a tectonically active region. AFP

The economic toll of natural disasters in the first half of this year

135 In $ billion. Wildfires near Los Angeles accounted for $40 billion in insured losses, followed by $31 billion from severe thunderstorms. A deadly earthquake in Myanmar and other disasters added to the toll. Insured losses alone hit $80 billion which is double the 10-year average. AFP

Armed Naxals who surrendered in Chhattisgarh

9 All of them surrendered in the Bijapur district, citing disillusionment with Maoist ideology. Six out of the nine Naxalites had a collective bounty of ₹24 lakh. They were influenced by the government's 'Niyad Nellanar' surrender policy. Each has received ₹50,000 in assistance. PTI

Additional CISF personnel sanctioned for Secretariat security

735 In fresh deployment, the Ministry of Home Affairs has cleared more than 700 additional CISF personnel to guard the upcoming Common Central Secretariat (CCS) buildings in Delhi. The force's CGBS wing will secure all 10 buildings. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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What is the potential of biochar?

What are the byproducts of biochar production and how can they generate additional electricity and fuels? How can biochar help the construction sector? Why does biochar remain underrepresented in carbon credit systems? How should one enable large-scale adoption of biochar?

EXPLAINER

Harishankar Kopperi
Suresh N.S.

The story so far:

With the Indian carbon market set to be launched in 2026, CO2 removal technologies such as biochar are expected to play a crucial role. Biochar is a type of charcoal rich in carbon and is produced from agricultural residue and organic municipal solid waste. It offers a sustainable alternative to manage waste and capture carbon. However, to truly serve as a scalable pathway for negative emissions across sectors, biochar requires participation and support from multiple stakeholders.

What is biochar's potential?

India generates over 600 million metric tonnes of agricultural residue and over 60 million tonnes of municipal solid waste every year. A significant portion of both is burnt openly or dumped in landfills, leading to air pollution from particulate matter and greenhouse gases such as methane, nitrous oxide, and CO2.

By using 30% to 50% of surplus waste, India can produce 15-26 million tonnes of biochar and remove 0.1 gigatonnes of CO2-equivalent annually. Byproducts of biochar production, such as syngas (20-30 million tonnes) and bio-oil (24-40 million tonnes), can generate additional electricity and fuels. Theoretically, utilising syngas could generate around 8-13 TWh of power, equivalent to 0.5-0.7% of India's annual electricity generation, replacing 0.4-0.7 million tonnes of coal per year. Bio-oil can likewise potentially offset 12-19 million tonnes (or 8%) of diesel or kerosene production annually, leading to lower crude oil imports and reducing more than 2% of India's total fossil-fuel-based emissions.

How can biochar be a carbon sink?

Biochar can hold carbon in the soil for 100-1,000 years due to its strong and stable characteristics, making it an effective long-term carbon sink. Its application across different sectors provides scalable opportunities for reducing emissions.

Removing emissions: A biochar pit and graded sticks. GETTY IMAGES

In agriculture, applying biochar can improve water retention, particularly in semi-dry and nutrient-depleted soils. This, in turn, can abate nitrous oxide emissions by 30-50%. Notably, nitrous oxide is a greenhouse gas with 273-times the warming potential of CO2, making its mitigation a crucial benefit of biochar.

Biochar can also enhance soil organic carbon, helping restore degraded soils.

In carbon capture applications, modified biochar can adsorb CO_2 from industrial exhaust gases. However, its carbon removal efficiency is currently lower than that of conventional methods.

In the construction sector, biochar can be explored as a low-carbon alternative to building materials. Adding 2-5% of biochar to concrete can improve mechanical strength, increase heat resistance by 20%, and capture 115 kg of CO_2 per cubic metre, making building materials a stable carbon sink.

In wastewater treatment, biochar offers a low-cost and effective option to reduce pollution. India generates more than 70 billion litres of wastewater every day, of which 72% is left untreated. A kilogram of biochar, along with other substances, can treat 200-500 litres of wastewater, implying a biochar demand potential of 2.5-6.3 million tonnes.

What hinders biochar's application?

Despite its theoretically substantial potential to capture carbon, biochar remains underrepresented in carbon credit systems due to the absence of standardised feedstock markets and consistent carbon accounting methods, which undermine investor confidence.

While research confirms biochar's technical feasibility for applications across sectors, deployments are hindered by barriers such as limited resources, evolving technologies, market uncertainties, and insufficient policy support. Viable business models are yet to emerge for large-scale adoption. Market development is further constrained by limited awareness among stakeholders, weak 'monitoring, reporting, verification' frameworks, and a lack of coordination across areas such as agriculture, energy, and climate policy.

To enable large-scale adoption, sustained support for R&D is essential to create region-specific feedstock standards and to optimise biomass utilisation rates based on agro-climatic zones and crop types. Further, biochar should be systematically integrated into existing and upcoming frameworks, including crop residue management schemes, bioenergy initiatives in both urban and rural contexts, and state-level climate strategies under the State Action Plans on Climate Change. Recognising biochar as a verifiable carbon removal pathway within the Indian carbon market will generate additional income for investors and farmers through carbon credits. Deploying biochar production equipment at the village level has the potential to create approximately 5.2 lakh rural jobs, linking climate action with inclusive economic development. The additional benefits of biochar, such as better soil health, lower fertilizer requirement (by 10-20%), and higher crop yield (by 10-25%), should be systematically integrated into policy and market frameworks to fully realise its potential.

In sum, although biochar is not a silver bullet, it offers a science-backed multisectoral pathway for India to achieve its climate and development goals.

Harishankar Kopperi is a senior associate and Suresh N.S. is a senior research scientist in the Strategic Initiatives group at Center for Study of Science Technology and Policy.

THE GIST

- By using 30% to 50% of surplus waste, India can produce 15-26 million tonnes of biochar and remove 0.1 gigatonnes of CO2-equivalent annually.
- Biochar can hold carbon in the soil for 100-1,000 years due to its strong and stable characteristics, making it an effective long-term carbon sink.
- While research confirms biochar's technical feasibility for applications across sectors, deployments are hindered by barriers such as limited resources, evolving technologies, market uncertainties, and insufficient policy support.

What is the status of the 'recall' vote in Taiwan?

Why did the ruling DPP push to remove opposition lawmakers? Did it polarise Taiwan further?

Femy Francis

The story so far:

On July 26, Taiwanese citizens voted to recall 24 Kuomintang (KMT) opposition party lawmakers from parliament (Legislative Yuan), but in round one, all 24 members managed to retain their seats with people in their districts voting against their removal. The second round is slated for late August. The Great Recall vote, supported by the Bluebird Movement and the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), accused KMT of being in cahoots with China and of threatening national security.

When did the movement begin?

The movement started in 2024, as local protesters accused the opposition of blocking DPP bills and pushing controversial laws later declared unconstitutional. The movement failed to garner 25% support to recall opposition lawmakers in each district; DPP needed six KMT seats recalled to gain a legislative majority. Additionally, the second recall voting against seven seats of the KMT lawmakers will be conducted later this month. The DPP is pressured to get all seats in the upcoming recall vote. KMT, after its survival, is calling for a reshuffle of the cabinet.

What is the removal vote about?

The Taiwan Public Officials Election and Recall Act is a rarely used constitutional instrument, permitting citizens to remove elected officials. The act has three stages of checks to successfully remove an office holder. The first step requires a petition signed by at least 1% of the electorate, the second stage needs 10% support from the electorate, and in the final stage, 25% of the district's eligible voters need to support the recall. After the Bluebird Movement, the DPP petitioned against KMT legislative lawmakers, accusing them of undermining national security by deferring to the Communist Party of China, and for passing bills without following procedural mandates. All 24 KMT lawmakers retained office by getting a majority of votes against their recall in their respective districts.

Why was the recall petition pushed?

The recall is a consequence of a divided government in Taiwan, with two different political parties leading the executive and legislative branches of government. The structural imbalance in the composition of parliament made the ruling party obsolete in fulfilling its legislative duties. Taiwan follows the unicameral system with 113 seats in its Legislative Yuan. DPP under former President Tsai Ing-wen enjoyed a majority in both the executive and legislative branches. This changed in the 2024 elections. The DPP's presidential candidate William Lai Ching-te won with 40.1% vote. But DPP lost its legislative majority with 51 seats against KMT's 52 seats and its ally Taiwan People's Party's (TPP) 8 seats, bringing the opposition's total to 60. With this legislative majority, the opposition party blocked crucial bills proposed by the DPP. What ignited the civic movement was the hasty approval of controversial bills by the opposition.

The KMT introduced several bills and amendments that undermined the judicial and executive branches' power, while awarding extrajudicial powers to the legislature. The proposed legislative reform bills ignored parliamentary deliberation and directly sent the bill to the plenary session to be passed. The Bluebird Movement, named after the street where the protest happened, was ignited by the egregious violation of the constitution. In May 2024, 1,00,000 protesters took to the streets of Taiwan calling against the violation of the law by the opposition.

Has it further polarised Taiwan?

The progressive recall vote, which empowered citizens to hold legislators accountable, has backfired by further polarising the parties and their support base. KMT's survival raised the question whether the recall was even necessary, and if the movement was politically motivated by the DPP.

Femy Francis is a project associate with Area Studies-China, at NIAS, Bengaluru.

THE GIST

- The movement started in 2024, as local protesters accused the opposition of blocking DPP bills and pushing controversial laws later declared unconstitutional.
- Taiwan follows the unicameral system with 113 seats in its Legislative Yuan. In the 2024 elections, the DPP's presidential candidate William Lai Ching-te won with 40.1% vote. But DPP lost its legislative majority with 51 seats against KMT's 52 seats and its ally Taiwan People's Party's (TPP) 8 seats, bringing the opposition's total to 60.
- The progressive recall vote, which empowered citizens to hold legislators accountable, has backfired by further polarising the parties.

KPCL records 3,361.54 MU in July following monsoon

This is the highest quantum of generation in a month; apart from the good monsoon in June when Karnataka had 8% surplus rainfall, reservoirs had also carried forward a significant quantum of storage from the previous water year

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

As reservoirs filled up in Karnataka following the monsoon, Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) generated a record quantum of 3,361.54 million units (MU) in July making it the highest quantum of generation in a month.

Out of this, 1,653.653 MU was generated from the State's hydel reservoirs. A total of 477.653 MU was generated in Sharavati generation station (Linganamakki), 347.518 MU in Nagzari (Supa), 712 MU in Varahi (Mani), and 611.770 MU in other reservoir stations.

This marks an increase from the generation in July 2024, when it was 3,238.801 MU and a significant jump from the 2,356.081 MU in 2023. When it comes to hydel, the generation was 1,106.301 MU in 2024 and 756.515 MU in 2023.

As of date, Linganamakki is 83.4% full with water level touching 1,811.6 feet against its full capacity of 1,819 ft. FILE PHOTO

"Usually, we cannot utilise hydro generation completely as the reservoirs are not full. But this time, owing to good rainfall in June, all reservoirs are full. We decided to generate as much electricity as possible. Otherwise, we will have to let the water out," explained Gaurav Gupta, managing director, KPCL and Additional Chief Secretary, Energy Department.

Apart from the good monsoon in June when Karnataka had 8% surplus rainfall overall, the reservoirs had also carried forward a significant quantum of storage from the previous water year.

'Stocking up'

"The reservoirs have a good quantum of water now with a steady inflow too. While we will continue to generate more power during the rainy season, we will also stock up enough for the summer months," Mr. Gupta said speaking about the present situation of the reservoirs.

As of date, Linganamakki is 83.4% full with water level touching 1,811.6 feet against its full capacity of 1,819 feet and the inflow stands at 11,224 cusecs. Supa, whose maximum limit is 564 metres has 551.48 metres of water level (66.44% full) with an inflow of 6,250 cusecs while the water level in Mani is at 590.65 metres against its full capacity of 594 metres (78.05% full) and an inflow of 1,293 cusecs.

Earlier on July 31, KPCL had issued a flood warning for the people living in the downstream regions of the Supa reservoir along the Kali River basin after there was a substantial increase in inflow of water into the reservoir.

Power play

Core theme rankings

21 Transport electrification
24 Charging infrastructure
11 EV research and innovation

State urged to prioritise low-emission zone policies, vehicle purchase subsidies, and boost R&D

Representatives of TCS , KITU attend conciliatory meeting

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Following the Karnataka IT/ITeS Employees Union filing an industrial dispute case against IT services company Tata Consultancy Services in the context of allegations of forced resignations by the company, a conciliatory meeting was held today between the parties by the Karnataka Labour Department.

It has been learnt that another detailed meeting would be held on September 8.

Boban Varghese Thomas, general manager-HR, and Mahesh G.K., assistant manager at TCS, attended the meeting in which Suhas Adiga, general secretary-KITU, VJK Nair, president-KITU, and Sooraj Nidiyanga, secretary-KITU, participated.

Sources close to the matter told *The Hindu* that both parties presented their sides at the meeting, which was held at the additional labour commissioner's office.

Case against company

KITU representatives had recently filed an industrial dispute case against TCS following allegations of forced resignations.

On July 27, the company also announced that it would release 2% of its global workforce, which comes to around 12,000 employees.

Following the complaint by the union, the Labour Department sent a notice to TCS.

According to the Industrial Disputes Act, companies employing more than 100 workers are required to obtain prior approval from the government before carrying out any layoffs or retrenchments. Such retrenchments are permitted only for specific reasons and under conditions clearly defined in the Act.

The union claims to have received several complaints from TCS employees, particularly those on the bench, who were reportedly being forced by the management to resign after introducing a new 'bench policy.' The new policy limits an employee's duration on the bench to 35 days annually.

Minister inaugurates mental health facility

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao inaugurated Amaha Hospital, a private mental health facility, in Bengaluru earlier this week.

The 27-bed super-speciality facility offers intensive, trauma-informed, multidisciplinary care for severe mental health conditions. The new facility brings together a multidisciplinary team of experts, including psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, occupational therapists, psychiatric nurses, social workers, and peer support specialists, said a release.

Speaking after the inauguration, Mr. Rao said: "Today, it is not just the elderly, young people too are increasingly affected. Rapid societal shifts, academic and career pressures, substance use, digital addiction, and poor sleep are all major contributors."

The Minister said: Mental health treatment is not just clinical, it involves emotion, deep analysis, and responsible intervention."

From Page One

YouTubers, TV news channel reporter attacked in Dharmasthala

Mr.Arun said FIRs were being registered in Dharmasthala police station on the complaint of assault on YouTubers and damage to their vehicles "by members in support of Dharmasthala" and for assaulting Suvarna News reporter "by members in support of YouTubers".

Another FIR

He said another FIR was being registered for unlawful assembly in Pangala and in front of Dharmasthala police station and in front of the private hospital at Ujire. "Appropriate legal action will be taken and further cases will be booked after verification of videos," Dr. Arun said

Meanwhile, Amit Singh, Inspector General of Police (Western Range) rushed to Dharmasthala late in the evening.

The Communist Party of India (Marxists) and the Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) condemned the attacks on the media. K. Prakash, secretary, CPI (M), Karnataka, urged police to arrest the attackers and those who instigated the attacks.

Condemning the attacks, Digital Media for Democracy, Bengaluru in a statement said, "We hope the State government will stand by the democratic right of media organisations and journalists, particularly digital media who have been in forefront in exposing the alleged crimes around Dharmasthala."

JNCASR research holds promise for curing Alzheimer's Disease

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A new research conducted by Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) holds promise for treating and also potentially curing Alzheimer's disease (AD).

This research involves novel therapeutic target and treatment options based on RNA and small molecules, which could potentially accelerate the drug discovery process.

According to the Department of Science and Technology, AD accounts for 70-80% of dementia cases and is the fifth leading cause of death. The disease is characterised by the accumulation of protein clumps in the brain, memory loss, and cognitive deficits.

Few options now

It added that currently, there are very few therapeutics available in the market, most of which provide only temporary relief.

Recently, a few antibody-based drugs were approved, but they offer limited benefits to patients.

"While, the role of various proteins in the development and progression of AD has been well studied, the role of microRNAs (miRNAs) in AD is poorly understood," it added.

To address this, JNCASR researchers explored altered miRNAs in the AD brain and also probed the potential of miRNAs to be biomarkers for early, specific, and accurate clinical diagnosis of AD.

"Since miRNAs are small non-coding RNA, they are known to target multiple mRNAs to regulate pathways linked to health and diseases as well as multiple disease pathologies linked to AD," the department said.

Methodology

Madhu Ramesh and Thimmaiah Govindaraju used a double transgenic AD mouse model to discover novel miRNAs involved in AD development and progression and identified various miRNAs that are altered in the AD brain compared to the normal brain, which could potentially trigger the disease.

"The current study offers valuable insight into AD by uncovering the regulatory role of miR-7a in controlling neuroinflammation and ferroptosis via Klf4 targeting," Prof. Govindaraju said.

The researchers have developed a miRNA-based therapeutic that targets Klf4 to prevent neuroinflammation and ferroptosis.

Honokiol is a natural product found in bark and seed cones of the Magnolia tree that targets Klf4 to stall neuroinflammation and ferroptotic cell death involved in AD. The department said that this demonstrates that the miR-7a-Klf4 axis is a novel target for AD and warrants further exploration to develop better therapeutics for the disease.

"The research shows that miR-7a suppresses Klf4, alleviating neuronal damage by modulating inflammation, and ferroptosis-related (iron-dependent accumulation of lipid hydroperoxides) pathways. Targeting this axis with a blood-brain barrier-permeable compound like honokiol demonstrates therapeutic potential," said Gireesh Gangadharan, Departtment of Ageing Research, Manipal School of Life Sciences, Manipal Academy of Higher Education.

Officials pulled up over hostel conditions on SJP campus

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar laid the foundation stone of the Government Women's Polytechnic on the Sri Jayachamarajendra Polytechnic (SJP) campus on Wednesday.

During the occasion, the Minister pulled up officials for the bad conditions in their hostels. He had visited and inspected the Women's Polytechnic hostel on the same campus before the event. Students at the hostel had a litany of complaints about the hostel conditions to the Minister. They said that five to seven girl students were put in a single room, were being served bad food and the condition of toilets were pathetic.

Dr. Sudhakar expressed anger over the use of rejected and waste tile pieces for toilet construction, and asked the officers whether similar poor materials were used for the construction of their houses. He ordered the reconstruction of hostel toilets on the campus.

Students complained about the poor quality food, unavailability of hot water, and lack of cleanliness at the canteen, toilets, and the hostel in general. They also requested the Minister that non-vegetarian food be served once a week. Responding to their requests, the Minister directed hostel officials to provide hot water, quality food, and snacks to all the students regularly.

"The government has taken steps to construct 10 hostels across the State in collaboration with VTU and the Backward Classes Welfare Department to provide hostel facilities to students pursuing technical education. One of these hostels will be built for the Government Women's Polytechnic students on the SJP campus, with good facilities," Dr. Sudhakar said.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, AUG. 07	
RISE 06:06	SET 18:44
RISE 17:22	SET 03:59
FRIDAY, AUG. 08	
RISE 06:06	SET 18:44
RISE 18:11	SET 04:56
SATURDAY, AUG. 09	
RISE 06:07	SET 18:43
RISE 18:57	SET 05:53

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	28	24
Mysuru	30	21
Bengaluru	28	20

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be comfortable. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

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THE HINDU
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Abandoned toolbox at metro station creates panic

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An abandoned toolbox belonging to a Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) employee that he left behind by mistake, at the K.R. Puram Metro Station in Bengaluru triggered panic for sometime on Wednesday.

A few commuters noticed the bag and alerted the metro security who rushed to the spot and checked it using a metal detector, which triggered a red flag.

Soon, the police were alerted, who, along with the Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad and a fire tender and cordoned off the area. They checked the bag and confirmed it to be a hoax.

No festive cheer for flower traders in city as prices and supply take a hit

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a huge disappointment to farmers and traders, the prices of flowers have not soared as much as usual for the Varamahalakshmi festival, which falls on Friday.

The quantity and quality of supply have taken a hit following the rainfall recieved over the last few days.

As of Wednesday, the price of jasmine was ₹1,200 - ₹1,400 per kg in K.R. Market, while kanakambara (crossandra) was selling at ₹1,200 per kg whereas in the previous years it was sold at around ₹2,000 - ₹3,000 per kg.

Sevanthige (chrysanthemum) was selling at ₹200 - ₹400 per kg depending on the moisture content in the flowers whereas button roses were selling at ₹300 per kg. Other than these, sugandha raja (tuberose) and marigolds were selling at ₹300 per kg and ₹80 per kg respectively.

People flock to K.R. Market in Bengaluru for festival shopping on Wednesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

"If the moisture content is too much in the flowers, then it will not last for more than one day. This is the reason why the price of flowers has not gone up this year, as people do not want to buy them beforehand. They want to buy it on the day of the festival or the previous evening. We are expecting the price of kanakambara to go up to ₹2,000 per kg by Thursday and jasmine to go up to ₹1,600 - ₹2,000 per kg," said G.M. Diwakar, president of K.R. Market Flower Merchants' Association.

The days around the Varamahalakshmi festival are the biggest business period for flower traders as the prices reach their peak due to the excessive demand. However, this year, with the prices stagnating at cheaper than usual for this festival, it is expected to go further down for the upcoming festivals like Ganesha Chaturthi and Dasara.

"It is for this festival that people buy the most varieties of flowers. For Ganesha Chaturthi etc., they just buy a few varieties, or some even stop at one or two garlands," Mr. Divakar said.

However, on Wednesday, there was traffic congestion in and around K. R. Market, including on J.C. Road from Sajjan Rao Circle to Town Hall, as festive shoppers came down to the streets, which were already congested because of the ongoing civic work.

Besides flowers, customers were in the market to buy vegetables and fruits for the festival, the prices of which have also gone up slightly.

Agra wins kabaddi gold at KVS sports meet

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The valedictory ceremony of the 54th KVS National Sports Meet 2025 for U-14 Boys Kabaddi was held on Wednesday at PM Shri K.V. MEG and Centre, Bengaluru.

In the final, Agra triumphed over Ranchi showcasing swift raids and solid defense. Patna secured third place.

Dharmendra Patle, Deputy Commissioner, KVS RO Ahmedabad, was the chief guest, accompanied by R. Pramod and Col. Govind Ram Choudhary as guests. NCC cadets presented a ceremonial guard of honour, while the Girl Pipe Band captivated the audience with a stirring performance.

Digital campaign strategies in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls

Lokniti-CSDS team*

India's 2024 Lok Sabha election spanned seven phases from April 19 to June 1, with around 642 million voters casting ballots at 1.05 million polling stations. While traditional campaign methods such as rallies, motorcades, and door-to-door canvassing remained influential, many voters' primary engagement with political parties came through screens. Political content flooded digital spaces through short videos on social media, targeted ads following users across apps, meme pages, and influencers weaving political commentary into lifestyle content. The 2024 election was not just supported by digital media; it was fundamentally shaped by it.

The recently released report by Lokniti-CSDS provides a data-driven analysis of digital platforms' role in the 2024 elections, showing how they complemented traditional door-to-door efforts in mobilising voters. This study analysed the social media campaigns of eight political parties – the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), Congress, Janata Dal (United) (JD(U)), Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Shiv Sena (Shinde), and Trinamool Congress (AITC)– on X and Facebook during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Focusing on engagement metrics and thematic content, the study tracked all posts across both platforms, including those in regional languages translated into English. Metrics such as likes, shares, comments, and views on Facebook, and likes, reposts, replies, and views on X, were used to assess voter response and messaging effectiveness. This is Part 1 of the study.

To account for differences in follower counts, the Effective Engagement Rate (EER) was calculated by dividing total engagements by the total number of followers on each platform. Analysing engagement relative to follower count reveals the real impact of campaign messaging. A large following with low EER suggests weak content appeal, while a smaller following with high EER indicates stronger resonance with supporters. The engagement analysis revealed key platform-specific trends. On X, Congress recorded the highest engagement, followed by BJP and AAP, reflecting strong voter interaction (Table 1). On Facebook, Trinamool Congress led in engagement, with JD(U) also performing notably well.

Advertising strategies

Beyond engagement metrics, thematic analysis revealed distinct campaign strategies during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Posts were categorised into themes such as economic issues, policies, governance, vote appeals, and attacks on the opposition. The Thematic Average (TA) was calculated by averaging each party's thematic focus across both platforms. AAP (56%) and Trinamool (44%) focused heavily on attacking opponents, while BJP (36%) and Shiv Sena (32%) emphasised vote appeals. JD(U) centred its campaign on policy issues (60%), including reservations, youth employment, and women's empowerment (Table 2). Religious content appeared primarily in BJP and Shiv Sena posts. Demographic targeting – addressing women, youth, and farmers –was visible in posts by the JD(U) (16%) and RJD (15%).

Digital advertising is now essential in electoral campaigns, shaping voter perceptions. Social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram, both owned by Meta, have become widely used in India, enabling political parties to reach and influence a diverse audience through posts and ads. The study analysed the digital strategies of Congress and BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, with a focus on their extensive use of Facebook and Instagram ads. It examines ad spend, thematic messaging, user engagement, and content consumption through the Meta Ad Library.

BJP and Congress showed stark contrasts in their digital advertising. The BJP ran 41,127 ads on Meta during the period, compared to Congress's 1,041, reflecting BJP's aggressive saturation strategy versus Congress's more targeted approach. However, the sheer number of ads does not necessarily translate into messaging effectiveness or voter engagement (Table 3). BJP's digital strategy was more diversified, placing 53% of its ads on Instagram, 45% on Facebook, and 1% on both platforms, allowing tailored messaging for each. In contrast, Congress concentrated 86% of its ads on both Instagram and Facebook simultaneously, with only 1% exclusive to Instagram and none solely on Facebook (Table 4). The language distribution of Meta ads also reveals contrasting strategies. The Congress focused primarily on Hindi, using it for 92% of ads, with limited regional presence (2% each in Tamil and Kannada), suggesting a more centralised voter appeal. In contrast, the BJP adopted a more linguistically diverse strategy, with 72% of ads in Hindi, and the rest distributed across Bengali, Odia, Marathi, and Tamil, highlighting its regional outreach within a national campaign framework.

Moreover, spending patterns of the BJP and Congress reflect different campaign strategies. The BJP favoured cost-efficiency, with 65% of its ads costing between ₹0 and ₹999, allowing for high-volume dissemination and broader visibility. The Congress in contrast, allocated more to higher-cost ads, with 34% in the ₹1,00,000 to ₹4,99,999 range, emphasising quality over quantity. This indicates Congress's focus on fewer, high-impact ads, contrasted with BJP's saturation strategy of numerous low-cost ads (Table 5). The BJP's ads were primarily focused on direct vote appeals, with significant emphasis on infrastructure, development, and the economy. Nationalist themes, such as India's global standing and the abrogation of Article 370, were also prominent (Table 6). On the other hand, the Congress's digital ads featured a more aggressive approach, with a heavy focus on criticism of the BJP's handling of economic issues, especially unemployment and inflation. Interestingly, religious content was notably absent from Congress's ads (Table 7). An analysis of ad impressions reveals contrasting strategies between the BJP and Congress. The BJP's negative ads consistently had more reach, with 23% appearing in the 1,00,000-4,99,999 impression range, compared to just 18% of its positive ads in a similar range. In contrast, Congress prioritised positive messaging, with over half (52%) of its positive ads surpassing one million impressions, while only 27% of its negative ads achieved the same (Table 8).

Outreach on Google

In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, digital platforms, particularly Google, played a pivotal role in political outreach. A comparative analysis of the BJP and Congress reveals distinct differences in their digital strategies. The data used has been derived from the Google Ads Transparency Centre. The BJP ran 2,25,695 ads across all seven election phases (excluding the silence period), while the Congress deployed only 9,251 ads. This disparity was further reflected in their respective expenditures, with the BJP spending ₹560 million and the Congress ₹210 million (Table 9). Nearly all BJP Google ads ran for 20 days or fewer, reflecting a strategy of rapid content turnover. In contrast, most Congress ads lasted between 21 and 40 days, indicating a focus on sustained visibility. Very few ads from either party exceeded 40 days. In terms of format, both parties used image and video ads, though with different emphasis. The BJP leaned on image-based content for broad visual appeal, whereas the Congress allocated a larger share to video ads, favouring more dynamic and immersive storytelling (Table 10).

For the BJP, a majority of its ads (98%) fell within the ₹1,00,000 range, with only 2% of ads exceeding this amount. In contrast, the Congress displayed a more balanced spending distribution, with 73% of its ads falling within the ₹1,00,000 range, while 27% exceeded this threshold (Table 11). The outcomes were visible in impressions: 61% of BJP ads had fewer than 10,000 views, and only 3% crossed one million. However, 21% of Congress ads surpassed the one million mark, and over half fell within the 10,001-one million range indicating stronger reach and engagement (Table 12). Across seven election phases, the BJP used a highly localised micro-targeting strategy, focusing on specific regions while excluding others. In contrast, the Congress adopted a broader strategy, mainly targeting entire States or the country, with minimal exclusions, reflecting a less localised campaign focus (Table 13).

BJP's ads showed significant variation across phases, while Congress's remained mostly consistent, often repeating similar content. Nearly all BJP ads featured Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the slogan "*Fir Ek Baar Modi Sarkar*" (Once again Modi Government). Congress ads mainly showcased the slogan "*Hath Badlega Halaat*" (The Palm will change the condition). Unlike BJP, Congress ads did not include explicit vote appeals.

The silent period

The digital shift of political campaigns has made it easier for political parties to bypass election regulations, particularly during the 48-hour silence period meant to ensure free and fair voting. An analysis of Google Ads using the Transparency Centre data reveals potential violations of these rules by parties during the recent elections.

The Election Commission's (EC) Model Code of Conduct (MCC) requires a 48-hour silence period before polling, banning all campaigning including digital. Despite this, parties have been observed violating the silence period by running online ads.

During the 48-hour silence period, the BJP ran 179,070 ads on Google compared to Congress's 8,149 – a ratio of approximately 21:1. Yet the BJP's total spend was only about 25% higher, than the Congress's. These figures reflect all ads live at any point in the silence windows, not necessarily violations. To identify actual breaches of the MCC, researchers sampled ads to check if they targeted poll-bound constituencies during the restricted window. Only such ads were considered violations of the rules.

To assess compliance, a sample of ads from both parties was analysed in each phase. For the BJP, 2,996 ads were analysed, and 492 were found to be in violation of the MCC. In contrast, of the 958 Congress ads analysed, 698 (or 73%) were found to be in violation of the MCC (Table 14 and Table 15). These repeated violations reveal gaps in current election regulations concerning digital platforms.

**Sanjay Kumar, Suhas Palshikar, Sandeep Shastri, Aditi Singh and Vibha Attri.*

LOKNITI-CSDS SURVEY

Table 1: Engagement rates (ER) on X and Facebook

Party	Engagement rate on X	Average engagement rate on Facebook
INC	122,079	24,872
BJP	56,865	29,053
AAP	45,367	31,351
RJD	44,855	16,167
DMK	6,504	2,840
AITC	5,654	91,384
Shiv Sena (Shinde)	4,195	14,965
JD(U)	2,356	33,133

Table 2: Thematic average (TA) across parties: Facebook and X combined

Theme	Attack against opposition	Vote appeals	Policies	Democracy and Constitution	Demographic targeting	Leadership & personal	Corruption	Religion	Policy Achievements	Other
BJP	22	36	19	1	6	3	3	3	5	2
INC	33	13	20	7	13	2	6	0	2	4
AAP	56	13	7	7	4	6	2	1	2	2
AITC*	44	18	11	7	10	0	2	0	3	5
DMK	25	23	14	15	8	0	1	0	4	10
JD(U)	1	18	60	0	16	0	0	0	1	4
RJD	36	2	29	10	15	4	2	0	0	2
Shiv Sena	17	32	27	0	7	2	0	5	0	10

Note: All figures are in per cent. *Trinamool Congress

Table 3: Total number of advertisements run by the BJP and the Congress

Party	Total number of advertisements
BJP	41,127
INC	1,041

Note: In some instances, the same advertisement was run in multiple versions. This data only includes unique advertisements run during the period of the study.

Table 4: Advertisement distribution across Meta platforms for BJP and the Congress

	Per cent of advertisements	
Platform	BJP	INC
Instagram	53	1
Facebook	45	0
Instagram & Facebook	1	86
Unknown	1	13

Table 5: Expenditure on advertisements by the BJP and the Congress

	BJP		INC	
Money spent in ₹	No. of advertisements	Per cent of advertisements	Number of advertisements	Per cent of advertisements
0-999	26,495	65	126	12
1,000-4,999	8,105	20	105	10
5,000-9,999	2,582	6	62	6
10,000-19,999	1,822	4	85	8
20,000-49,999	1,356	3	147	14
50,000-99,999	491	1	116	11
1,00,000-499,999	266	1	351	34
>=5,00,000	10	0	49	5
Total advertisements	41,127	100	1,041	100

Table 6: Thematic analysis of advertisements run by the BJP

Theme	BJP advertisements in per cent
Vote appeals	52
Infrastructure	10
Development	8
Economy	7
International standing	5
Schemes/ policies	4
Women	4
Article 370	4
Religion	2
Youth	2
Farmers	2

Table 7: Thematic analysis of ads run by the Congress

Theme	% of Congress ads
Attack	27
Unemployment/inflation	26
Vote appeals	20
Farmers	10
Women	7
Schemes/ policies	4
Youth	4
Other	2

Table 8: Tone and impressions of ads run by the BJP and the Congress

		100-999	1,000-4,999	5,000-9,999	10,000-49,999	50,000-99,999	1,00,000-4,99,999	5,00,000-9,99,999	>=1M
BJP	% of positive advertisements	22	15	7	21	7	18	5	5
	% of negative advertisements	11	14	7	25	9	23	6	5
INC	% of positive advertisements	2	1	1	9	4	18	13	52
	% of negative advertisements	7	11	7	14	1	20	13	27

Table 9: Advertisements posted and money spent on the corresponding advertisements on Google

Party	Number of ads	Money spent (₹)
BJP	2,25,695	560 million
INC	9,251	210 million

Source: The Google Ads Transparency Centre

Table 10: Format of advertisements posted by the BJP and the Congress

	Format of ads	
	Image	Video
Advertisements by the BJP	91	9
Advertisements by Congress	70	30

Note: All figures are in per cent.

Table 11: Money spent on advertisements posted by the BJP and the Congress

	Range of money spent	
	Up to ₹1,00,000	Above ₹1,00,000
Advertisements by the BJP	98	2
Advertisements by the INC	73	27

Note: All figures are in per cent.

Table 12: Impressions on advertisements posted by the BJP and the Congress

	Range of impressions		
	0-10,000	10,001-1M	Above 1M
Ads by the BJP	61	36	3
Ads by the Congress	27	52	21

Note: All figures are in per cent.

Table 13: Phase-wise micro-targeting in advertisements posted by the BJP and the Congress

Party	Ads in Phase 1	Ads in Phase 2	Ads in Phase 3	Ads in Phase 4	Ads in Phase 5	Ads in Phase 6	Ads in Phase 7
BJP	96	77	84	69	84	77	100
INC	32	22	10	52	30	52	59

Note: All figures are in per cent. The rest of the advertisements for each party did not have micro-targeting.

Table 14: Number of advertisements analysed and violations recorded in the phase-wise analysis of BJP advertisements

Phases	Number of advertisements analysed	Violations
Phase 1	250	64
Phase 2	279	92
Phase 3	625	93
Phase 4	662	63
Phase 5	640	91
Phase 6	360	36
Phase 7	180	53

Table 15: Number of advertisements analysed and violations recorded in phase-wise analysis of Congress advertisements

Phases	Number of advertisements analysed	Violations
Phase 1	250	115
Phase 2	100	78
Phase 3	168	154
Phase 4	70	57
Phase 5	160	94
Phase 6	140	130
Phase 7	70	70

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"... to tell you the truth, he doesn't know anything. He is ignorant with everything."

"First of all, the word ignorant has the stress on the first syllable 'ig'. The 'n' in the second syllable and the 'a' in the third syllable are pronounced like the 'a' in China."

"So, it's IGnorant?"

"Yes, that's right. And secondly, you are never ignorant with something. It's always ignorant of something. For example, the new Minister was ignorant of the facts."

"How about this sentence? The principal was ignorant of the argument that led to the fight."

"Sounds good to me. Here's another example: Many people are ignorant of the new rules."

"People who don't know how to read and write are ignorant of their rights."

"That's true. Often, people use about after ignorant. For example, the new Minister is ignorant about the old policies."

"Can I say, our principal is ignorant about politics?"

"You certainly can! Here's another example: Thanks to Star TV, many of our young people are ignorant about our rich cultural heritage."

"Rich cultural heritage! You're beginning to sound like my father. Tell me, which is more correct? Ignorant of or ignorant about?"

"As I said, both are acceptable. But some people think that ignorant of is better usage than ignorant about."

"I see. Hey, how about seeing The Lost World tomorrow?"

"I've already seen it. I saw it last Saturday."

"You did? What did you think of it?"

"It isn't all it's cracked up to be."

"What do you mean it's cracked? You mean it's a crazy movie?"

"No, no! That's not what I mean at all. Cracked up to be is an informal expression meaning supposed to be. So, the sentence The Lost World isn't all that it's cracked up to be means..."

"... it isn't as great as people make it out to be?"

"Yes, that's right. It's not as good as people say it is."

"So, can I say, this hotel isn't all it's cracked up to be?"

"You certainly can. I wanted to find out if my new boss was what he was cracked up to be."

"You have a new boss? I didn't know that! When did..."

"...relax! That was just an example."

"Oh! I was worried. I thought something had happened to your old boss."

"...dummy up, will you?"

"Dummy up? What does that mean?"

"It means to keep quiet. Whenever a salesman comes to our place, my father just dummies up and lets my mother do all the talking."

"In our school, students dummy up whenever they see the Principal walk by."

"Why have you dummied up?"

"You told me to dummy up, didn't you?."

Published in The Hindu on July 29, 1997.

Word of the day

Tapestry:
a heavy textile with a woven design, used for curtains and upholstery; a wall hanging of heavy handwoven fabric often with pictorial designs

Synonyms: tapis, arras

Usage: *The artist made a beautiful tapestry.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/tapestrypro

International Phonetic Alphabet:/tæpəstɹi/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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M BG-BGE

Tiger deaths: NTCA highlights salary delays, staff shortage in its probe

Though National Tiger Conservation Authority has not attributed the death of tigers to these issues, it has mentioned that inadequate allotment of funds and delay in its release as one of the weaknesses plaguing M.M. Hills reserve

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has flagged delays in salary disbursement and chronic staff shortage in its report investigating the death of five tigers at M.M. Hills wildlife sanctuary this June.

Though the NTCA has not attributed the death to any of these issues, it has mentioned inadequate allotment of funds and delay in its release as one of the weaknesses plaguing M.M. Hills reserve.

Wildlife activists have argued that if not for the delay in salary disbursement, the death of the tigers could perhaps have been avoided.

The cremation of the five tigers which were found dead in the M.M. Hills wildlife sanctuary. FILE PHOTO

> Had the APO been cleared on time, salaries would not have been delayed and the morale of ground staff wouldn't have taken a hit
>
> **AKHILESH CHIPLI,** Conservation activist

Delay in sanctions

According to the NTCA report, the Annual Plan of Operation (APO) for 2025-26, which enables the release of funds for frontline salaries and operations, was submitted by the Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF), M.M. Hills, to Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) T. Heeralal on May 21, 2025.

But it was sanctioned only on May 30, with the approved copy reaching the division office on July 2 – almost a week after the tigers were found dead on June 26.

The authorities were aware of the fact that the frontline staff had not been paid for three months and there was also a protest on June 23.

Given the gravity of the situation, the CCF, Chamarajanagar, should not have delayed the approval of APO and this delay is questionable, said conservation activist Akhilesh Chipli.

While forest officials claim the timelines follow standard State-level procedure, activists say the delay is inexcusable, especially when forest watchers are expected to patrol in dangerous terrain under constant threat from wildlife and poachers.

Frontline staff

Mr. Chipli said that frontline staff do not earn more than ₹10,000 to ₹15,000 per month.

Delaying their salaries for three to four months at a stretch is inhuman, he added.

Though the contractor was supposed to make payments for upto six months in case of a delay in the release of funds by the government, the former said that payment of ₹90 lakh for three months was a huge financial burden on him, according to the NTCA report.

"Had the APO been cleared on time, salaries would not have been delayed and the morale of ground staff wouldn't have taken a hit," said Mr. Chipli, who argued that such delays cannot be dismissed as procedural issues.

Giridhar Kulkarni, wildlife conservationist, said given the hierarchy and based on documents, it did not appear that the Range Forest Officer and the Assistant Conservator of Forest had any role in the disbursement of salaries which was cited as the primary reason for their suspension, and called for the revocation.

Severe staff shortage

The report also highlighted another systemic failure of chronic staff shortage which compromises forest protection. In M.M. Hills wildlife division, 53% of sanctioned posts are vacant and out of 222 sanctioned positions, only 103 are filled.

In the Hoogyam range, where the deaths occurred, there is just one forest watcher and seven beat foresters for nearly 148 sq. km of sensitive forest area, as per the report.

'Declare it sanctuary'

NTCA has called for declaring the M.M. Hills Wildlife Sanctuary as a tiger reserve to provide an additional layer of protection and scale up conservation efforts.

Smart meter tender process: HC stays proceedings against George and officials

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday stayed the proceedings before a special court against Energy Minister K.J. George and two officials on a private complaint lodged by BJP leaders alleging a series of illegalities and corruption in awarding tender in favour of a private company to supply smart electricity meters at an exorbitant price.

Justice M.I. Arun passed the interim order on separate petitions filed by Mr. George, Mahantesh Bilagi, then managing director (MD) of Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) and presently MD of Karnataka Minerals Corporation Ltd., and Ramesh H.J., director-technical of Bescom.

The petitioners have questioned the legality of an order, passed on July 23 by the Special Court of Sessions for criminal cases against former and present MPs and MLAs, directing the Superintendent of Police (SP), Lokayukta police, to submit a report on the complaint lodged by the BJP legislators, C.N. Ashwath Narayan, S.R. Vishwanath, and Dheeraj Muniraj.

The BJP leaders in April knocked the doors of the special court as the Lokayukta police had not taken any action on the complaint lodged by them seeking investigation into the illegalities in the smart meter tender process.

BJP's allegations

It has been alleged in the complaint of the BJP legislators that M/s. Rajashree Electricals Pvt. Ltd., (REPL), Davangere, is a "benami and shell company being operated by agents or henchmen of Mr. George" and several vital norms for awarding the tender were ignored to award the contract to supply smart meters at an exorbitant price when it could have been supplied at a lower price under a Central government-sponsored scheme.

Also, it has been alleged in the complaint that Gaurav Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Energy Department, Mr. Belagi, in his capacity as MD of Bescom, and Mr. Ramesh had conspired with Mr. George in awarding the tender illegally and causing a huge loss to the State exchequer.

The complaint has also alleged that REPL had tied up with another private company, BTCIL, which is a blacklisted company at the time of the award of tender.

While denying all the allegations, Mr. George and the two officials have contended that there was no material against them to constitute an offence that require an investigation.

The petitioners have also questioned the report sought by the special court from the SP, Lokayukta, while contending that this order was violative of Section 175 (4) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

A report under Section 175 (4) of the BNSS can be secured only from the 'administrative superior' of the public servant, against whom complaint has been lodged, and not from the police officer or investigative authority as has been done by the special court in this case, it has been claimed in the petitions.

Also, it has been contended in the petition that the special court could not have sought any report in the absence of prior sanction for investigation granted by the competent authority under Section 17-A of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

State Education Policy report will be submitted to government in a couple of days: Sudhakar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Education Policy (SEP) report will be submitted to the Karnataka government in a couple of days, said Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar. The SEP Commission made a presentation and briefed the Ministers and officials concerned on Wednesday.

"The report will be submitted to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in a day or two depending on his availability," Dr. Sudhakar said.

Responding to a question as to the timeline of implementation of the SEP, Dr. Sudhakar said that the government had no confusion about the implementation of the report.

"In 2021, the BJP government had implemented the National Education Policy (NEP-2020) in a hurried manner only in the higher education sector, but not in school education, in the State. Based on the SEP interim report, four-year degree courses were withdrawn last year and three-year degree courses were re-implemented. The system of multiple entry-exit and other elements of NEP-2020 have also been completely abolished. We will soon implement SEP across all stages of education across the State," he said.

Commenting on the delay in appointing guest faculty members to government first grade colleges in the State, the Minister said that in September, 2024, the High Court ordered that the appointment of guest faculty to degree colleges should be done as per the University Grants Commission (UGC) norms. "We have appealed against this order in a Division Bench. The case is still pending and this is delaying the appointment process," he said.

"The government has taken all necessary steps for the progress and welfare of guest faculty. However, the appointment of guest lecturers who do not have the UGC norms, contrary to the court order, is difficult. We cannot proceed on this issue, without getting proper clarification from the court," Dr. Sudhakar explained.

Minister justifies closure of Jan Aushadi Kendras at govt. hospitals

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao has said the move to close Jan Aushadi Kendras at government hospitals is primarily aimed at benefiting poor and marginalised patients who rely heavily on government hospitals for healthcare. FILE PHOTO

Justifying Karnataka's move to close Jan Aushadi Kendras on the premises of government-run hospitals, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao wrote to Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda on Tuesday stating that the move was intended to ensure free and assured supply of essential medicines to patients.

Responding to the Union Health Minister's letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on the issue, Mr. Rao has said the intention to close the kendras only on the premises of government hospitals is to reduce the out-of-pocket expenditure for patients.

"The decision was taken to prevent doctors from directing patients to purchase medicines from these commercial outlets, thereby ensuring they are not denied free medicines available at the hospitals," he said in the letter.

Karnataka ranks among the top States in terms of the number of operational Jan Aushadi Kendras, with over 1,417 currently functioning. Of these, only 184 are located on the premises of government hospitals under the Department of Health and Family Welfare, while the rest operate independently outside government hospital campuses.

Free supply

Stating that the Karnataka government is committed to the free supply of all essential medicines, as listed in the Essential Medicines List (EML), across public healthcare institutions, Mr. Rao's letter said: "To streamline public healthcare delivery and eliminate the risk of patients being denied medicines at government facilities, the State government has directed that prescriptions by government doctors be limited to medicines available within the hospital supply."

"Medicines are regularly provided to government hospitals through Karnataka State Medical Supplies Corporation Limited (KSMSCL). Hospitals have also been allocated sufficient funds and have standing instructions to purchase medicines locally in case of any shortage. This effort is aimed at ensuring universal access to essential medicines for patients visiting government hospitals – entirely free of cost," Mr. Rao said in the letter.

Asserting that the decision does not restrict the operation of Jan Aushadhi Kendras outside government hospital premises, Mr. Rao said citizens are free to access them as per their choice. "This move is primarily aimed at benefiting poor and marginalised patients who rely heavily on government hospitals for healthcare," the Minister said in the letter.

Subsidised rate

Highlighting the affordability of medicines sold under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), Mr. Rao noted that the scheme offers medicines at prices 50% to 80% lower than branded alternatives. PMBJP is implemented by the Pharma and Medical Bureau of India (PMBI), a society registered under the Societies Registration Act.

Mr. Rao urged Mr. Nadda to direct PMBI to supply medicines to Karnataka's Health Department at the same rates offered to Jan Aushadi Kendras. "This will go a long way in supporting the State's free drug supply initiative," he added.

Cabinet likely to approve Nagamohan Das Commission report today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Retired judge H.N. Nagamohan Das

The State Cabinet, which is expected to meet on Thursday, is likely to approve the recommendations of the commission headed by H.N. Nagamohan Das, which submitted its report on internal reservation for 101 Scheduled Castes in Karnataka to the government on Monday.

According to leaked data, the report recommended 4% quota for Lambanis, Koramas, Korachas, and Bhovis (touchable communities) against the 4.5% recommended during the previous BJP government.

It has provided 6% reservation for the Dalit left, 5% for the Dalit right, 1% to more than 40 nomadic tribes classified as micro communities and 1% for Adi Karnataka (AK), Adi Dravida (AD) and Adi Andhra (AA) communities.

Lambani community leaders, including Legislative Assembly Deputy Speaker Rudrappa Lamani and former MLC Prakash Rathod, said that the community was "disappointed" with the 4% quota recommended by the commission and demanded 5%, as more than 80% of the people have been living below the poverty line and as migrants.

They claimed that there were several loopholes in the method adopted to collect the data of the community. Mr. Rathod questioned the authenticity of the data and claimed the Lambanis constituted 4.68% of the SC population in the State.

Meanwhile, the Dalit left groups, which have been demanding internal reservation, have said that the government should implement the recommendations of the report at the earliest.

Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Ltd.
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Specification No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Name of the Work
M-178/ 2025-26	CE/ MM	Supply & Erection of 8MVA, 33/11KV, Outdoor Power Transformers

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / Opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit the websites **www.tnpdcl.org, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in**

DIPR/4219/Tender/2025

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
Projects Circle, Coimbatore
Tender Notice
Tender Notice No.07 /2025-26/SDO/ Dated: 04.08.2025

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu item rate tender through online only will be received upto **10.09.2025, 11.30 AM** by the Superintending Engineer (H) Projects Circle, Coimbatore for the work under pertaining to **Coimbatore (H) Projects Division.**

Details of work, approximate value of work, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in** from **13.08.2025.** If any changes / corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

DIPR/4113/TENDER/2025

Superintending Engineer (H), Projects Circle, Coimbatore.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

REMEMBRANCE

In Memoriam
SIXTH ANNIVERSARY
Mrs. Thangam Chidambaram

7th August 2019

MS. RENUKA CHIDAMBARAM IAS (RETD)
DR. ROHINI CHIDAMBARAM KRISHNAN
GP. CAPT RAJESH CHIDAMBARAM (RETD)

AND
FAMILY

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INBRIEF

Vijay Deverakonda deposes before ED in betting apps case

Actor Vijay Deverakonda appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday as part of its ongoing probe into the alleged promotion of unauthorised online betting platforms. He arrived at the ED office in Basheerbagh, Hyderabad. Mr. Deverakonda is one of the 29 individuals summoned by the agency. The case pertains to promotional content allegedly masking unregulated gambling apps as entertainment/charity-related initiatives.

28 tourists from Kerala stuck in Uttarakhand reported safe

A 28-member group of tourists from Kerala was stranded in Uttarakhand following flash floods. A family member of one of the tourists told reporters in Kochi that Defence sources informed them that the entire group was safe, but stuck in the bus with nowhere to go. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan urged his Uttarakhand counterpart Pushkar Singh Dhami to take all necessary action to ensure safety of the stranded people. PTI

No skeletal remains found at new spot in Dharmasthala

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the Dharmasthala burials case did not find any skeletal remains at the new spot shown by the complainant-witness, near site no. 11 at Banglagudde near Dharmasthala, after digging at the location on Wednesday. The SIT had recovered some skeletal remains, said to be of a male, on Monday. The SIT is likely to dig at site no. 13, the last of the sites identified by the complainant-witness, on Thursday.

Telangana CM slams BJP for stalling BC reservation Bills

Members of Revanth's Cabinet protest in Delhi demanding the President's consent for two Bills on 42% BC reservation; CM says if the Bills don't get approval, it will mean the BJP is 'against BCs'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, accompanied by his entire Cabinet, including Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, held a dharna in Delhi's Jantar Mantar demanding the President's assent for two Bills passed by the State Assembly that seek to increase reservations for Backward Classes to 42% in education, employment and local bodies. The Bills have been pending for four months.

Mr. Reddy said that if the Bills are not cleared, it will be clear that BJP is "against Backward Classes". A related Ordinance to remove the 50% cap on reservations under the Telangana Panchayat Raj Act is also awaiting approval. The Congress government is under pressure to get the reservation approved at the earliest since the Telangana High Court had directed the State to complete the process for local body elections by September 30.

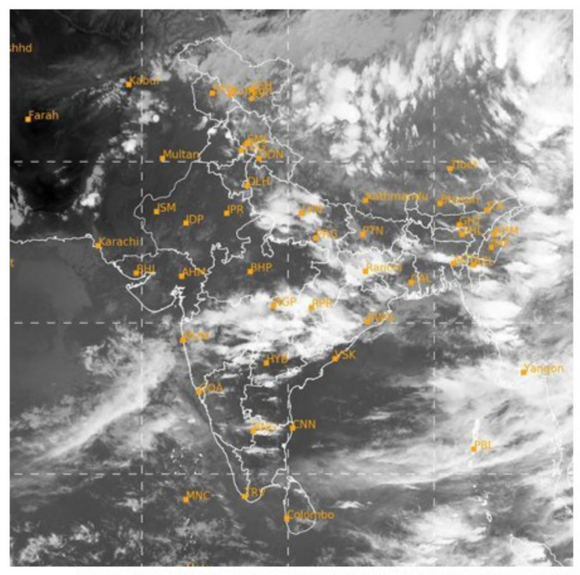
Band together: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Ministers protest at Jantar Mantar on Wednesday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Mr. Reddy accused the Centre of being indifferent to the pleas of the State government regarding the Bills. "That is why we have decided to protest – on the streets and in Parliament," he said. He also informed that he and his Cabinet had sought an appointment with President Droupadi Murmu but had not received any response. "If the Bills are not granted assent, it will be clear that the BJP is against Backward Castes," he added.

Mr. Vikramarka underlined that both the BJP and the Bharat Rashtra Samithi supported the Bills in the House. These Bills, he said, have been framed after meticulous planning.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.45 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	24	31.2	25.0	Kozhikode	17	30.0	22.6
Ahmedabad	—	34.3	26.2	Kurnool	5	34.5	24.7
Aizawl	15.3	30.2	20.7	Lucknow	3	32.3	25.6
Allahabad	2	34.8	25.4	Madurai	—	36.4	23.6
Bengaluru	—	28.5	20.5	Mangaluru	0.2	29.0	22.9
Bhopal	—	32.7	23.4	Mumbai	—	31.9	26.0
Bhubaneswar	—	32.8	27.0	Mysuru	—	30.2	20.0
Chandigarh	16	34.5	23.7	New Delhi	—	34.8	26.1
Chennai	—	36.1	26.4	Patna	—	32.7	26.6
Coimbatore	—	32.7	22.2	Port Blair	—	30.8	26.2
Dehradun	83	31.4	22.2	Puducherry	—	33.9	24.8
Gangtok	5	22.9	18.8	Pune	—	30.3	24.1
Goa	12	27.2	23.4	Raipur	—	35.2	26.6
Guwahati	—	33.9	26.5	Ranchi	3.2	31.1	23.4
Hubballi	—	29.0	23.0	Shillong	19	24.4	17.5
Hyderabad	9	33.2	22.8	Shimla	64	21.8	16.0
Imphal	—	30.1	24.5	Srinagar	—	29.5	20.0
Jaipur	—	34.2	25.5	Thiruvananthapuram	0.5	31.6	23.8
Kochi	5	28.4	24.0	Tiruchi	34	36.3	23.4
Kohima	2	25.2	19.0	Vijayawada	—	35.4	27.6
Kolkata	4	29.8	24.4	Visakhapatnam	—	34.9	28.3

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.17	.43	32	46	70	
Bengaluru	.11	.14	32	27	127	
Chennai	9	.16	59	45	53	
Delhi	.20	.50	61	52	125	
Hyderabad	5	.15	18	137	108	
Kolkata	.10	.94	31	46	57	
Lucknow	.11	.37	58	35	55	
Mumbai	4	.15	59	19	91	
Pune	—	.34	77	45	116	
Visakhapatnam	9	.27	12	53	86	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 340 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 16

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Ahead of AMMA polls, case against Shwetha

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Ernakulam Central police, based on a complaint, have registered a first information report (FIR) against actor Shwetha Menon under Section 67A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 for making financial gains through her roles in movies having alleged vulgar and obscene content.

The FIR said that the alleged content was transmitted through social media and adult sites to gain popularity. It alleged that such content was misused commercially to make an earning. The police said they would initiate a probe into the allegations.

It is to be noted that the actor is contesting for the post of the president of the Association of Malayalam Movie Artistes (AMMA) in the election to the executive committee of the actors' body to be held on August 15.

Pushpa 2 stampede: NHRC issues notice

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Wednesday issued a showcause notice to Telangana Chief Secretary, asking why it should not recommend a compensation of ₹5 lakh to the next of kin of a woman who died in a stampede during the prerelease screening of Allu Arjun-starrer *Pushpa 2* at a theatre in Hyderabad on December 4 last year.

The initial report submitted by the Additional Commissioner of Police (Law & Order), Hyderabad City, on March 20, stated that permission for the event was rejected and that allegations of lathi charge were false.

However, the NHRC, after reviewing the matter, questioned why the police allowed the crowd, Allu Arjun and the theatre management to gather for an event in the absence of permission.

A.P. Ministers to visit foreign countries on study tour

The Hindu Bureau
AMARAVATI

Groups of Ministers will be sent to the developed countries to study the development projects there with an aim to bringing innovative policies to Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has informed the Cabinet.

The Ministers, particularly the young ones, will be divided into groups for the purpose. Mr. Naidu revealed the idea after the Cabinet meeting he chaired at the Secretariat on Wednesday.

Mr. Naidu said the Ministers should understand the development projects in the countries they visit and find new ways to develop Andhra Pradesh.

On Singapore visit

Revealing details of his Singapore visit, the Chief Minister, according to a few Ministers, said, "With great difficulty, we have been able to revive confidence among the Ministers and officials in the Singapore Government. Due to the unacceptable attitude of the YSRCP Government, the Singapore Government, lost trust in us. After more than 40 meetings, the Singapore authorities have accepted to participate in the investor summit slated for November in Andhra Pradesh to explore opportunities. They are reluctant to take up the Seed Capital project, as agreed before 2019, but they will extend support to complete the project."

The Chief Minister said, from the next Cabinet meeting, one Minister must explain the progress and achievements of his portfolio.

King of the hill

Perched atop: A red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*), a semi-aquatic turtle, basking in the sun at a pond in the Jayamahal Park in Bengaluru on Wednesday. J. ALLEN EGENUSE

'No ground' for case against Adoor as per legal opinion

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The police had sought the district public prosecutor's opinion after activist registers complaint

The Kerala Police have received a legal opinion that film director Adoor Gopalakrishnan's assertion that aspiring filmmakers from marginalised sections of society and women should undergo intensive training as a prerequisite for State funds for making movies and documentaries with artistic and social value does not warrant a case.

The police had sought the district public prosecutor's opinion after social activist Dinu Veyil registered a complaint at the Musuem police station here accusing Mr. Gopalakrishnan of articulating a discriminatory caste prejudice against aspiring filmmakers from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) at a cinema conclave organised by the State government here recently.

Mr. Veyil demanded that the police book Mr. Gopalakrishnan on the charge of violating the provisions of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Law and Order), Thiruvananthapuram City, Nakul Rajendra Deshmukh confirmed to *The Hindu* that the government lawyer had opined that there was no "legal ground [for the registration of] a case."

Another officer privy to the process said the prosecutor had told that the remarks did not target any specific individual or a community. Mr. Gopalakrishnan's viewpoint on training novices did not meet the legal criterion of a casteist slur. The prosecutor said a close examination of Mr. Veyil's complaint did not *prima facie* reveal any evidence that warranted a registration of a case.

However, several activists have signalled that they would file petitions demanding the filmmakers' prosecution.

Kerala school ceiling caves in; rain holiday averts major accident

The Hindu Bureau
THRISSUR

A major accident was narrowly avoided after the ceiling of the assembly hall at the Government Lower Primary School, Kodaly, in Thrissur in Kerala collapsed early on Wednesday morning. None was injured as schools remained closed due to a rain-related holiday in the district.

The ceiling, located above the school's assembly area, gave way and crashed down, damaging fans and chairs placed beneath. Parents and local residents expressed deep concern, pointing out that the hall was inaugurated only in 2023 with an allocation of ₹54 lakh from the local MLA's funds.

Structural defects

Locals alleged that the building was constructed in an unscientific manner and structural defects had been flagged previously. In fact, a recent Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) meeting had taken a decision to carry out repairs.

Construction firm Costford attributed the collapse to relentless rain. Thrissur District Collector Arjun Pandian ordered an inquiry into the incident. MLA K.K. Ramachandran assured that the ceiling will be fully reconstructed.

Karnataka revises setback rules for buildings in Bengaluru; introduces new stilt parking rule

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has notified amendments to the Zonal Regulations of the Revised Master Plan (RMP) 2015, for Bengaluru's Local Planning Area (LPA), rationalising all-round building setback requirements. In addition, the notification revises permissible stilt height, earlier referred to as "less than 2.4m," to "up to 3m." Similarly, the maximum permissible height for certain building components where the stilt height was set at 11.5m has been revised to 12m.

The revised regulations, issued on August 1, by the Urban Development Department, are now in effect.

The amendment introduces a calibrated setback system for buildings above 12m in height. The minimum required front, rear, and side setbacks will now be determined based on both building height and plot size.

For buildings between 12m and 15m high, constructed on plots up to 4,000 sq. m with stilt parking, the required setbacks can now be 1m to 1.5m. For buildings in plot sizes above 4,000 sq. m, the setbacks are benchmarked at 5m.

For buildings above 12m up to 15m where stilt parking is not constructed, the setback is set at 5m. As the height of a building increases, so do the minimum setback requirements, scaling up to 16m for buildings taller than 50m. The setback requirements for different slabs are categorised based on building heights.

The amendment introduces a calibrated setback system for buildings above 12m in height. K. MURALI KUMAR

New norms

Size of the building	Setback (in metres)
Above 12 up to 15 wherever stilt floor is not constructed	5
Above 15 and up to 18	6
Above 18 and up to 21	7
Above 21 and up to 24	8
Above 24 and up to 27	9
Above 27 and up to 30	10
Above 30 and up to 35	11
Above 35 and up to 40	12
Above 40 and up to 45	13
Above 45 and up to 50	14

ensures the use of stilt floors exclusively for vehicle parking. The stilt floor, now clearly defined as being up to 3m in height, will not be counted towards the total height of the building.

In addition, strict enforcement clauses have been introduced to prevent misuse. The use of stilt floors for commercial, storage, or habitable purposes has been expressly prohibited. Such violations will result in denial of power and water connections by Bescom and BWSSB. In the case of non-residential buildings or office spaces, misuse could also lead to the cancellation or withholding of trade licences.

The amendment not only optimises land use but also helps maintain essential standards of fire safety and curb issues such as rampant roadside parking in residential areas.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the public that my client Sri. Jagadish Uday Kumar is intending to purchase the immovable Property Site bearing No. 11, bearing E-Swattu/Khatrha PID No. 9230266381 (Old Khatha No. 9/10), Situated at 16th E Main road, Byrasandra, Jayanagara, Bengaluru-560011, measuring East to West 55 ft. 16.76 Mtrs., and North to South 87'6" or 26.66 Mtrs., totally measuring 4813 Sq. ft. or 447.1 Sq. Mtrs.,from its owner Sri. B.S. Rupesh Kumar and Smt. Prathibha Rupesh Bongale.

If anybody or any authority having any right, title, claims, interest or objections over the same, may file their objections with documents to below mentioned address within 7 days from the date of this public notice. Failing which my client will proceed topurchase the above said Property by treating no one has objections in respect of the said properties.

Subrahmanya Hegde Advocate
ANANDA & HEGDE LAW ASSOCIATES
#76-77, Krishna Krupa Building
Ground Floor, 2nd Main Road
Sheshadripuram, Bangalore-20.
Mob: 9060069259.

Date:05.08.2025
Bangalore

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: B-SG-Proj-SBC-TD-ASK-HRR Dated 29.07.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
SWR-Mysuru	**Rs. 28,61,23,630.82**

Division: Throughout Enhancement and Safety work by Provision of reliable track detection with Multisection Digital Axle Counters (MSDAC) in parallel with DC track circuit for improvement of reliability of signalling assets at major stations and junctions stations along with alteration to Existing Electronic Interlocking at Arasikere (ASK), Kadur (DRU), Birur (RRB), Chikkajajuru (JRU), Amaravathi Colony (AVC) & Harihar (HRR) over Mysuru division in Sampige Road - Haveri section.

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 03.09.2025

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Project/Bengaluru

PUB/357/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of our client **Mr. N.V.RAMAKRISHNA, S/o Late N.R.Venkatarao** to bring to the notice of the general public that the Original Sale deed dated 21.04.2003, document bearing No.1836/2003-04, Book 1, CD No.121, registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore in respect of the property is lost.

If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document, they shall return the same or contact the undersigned in writing within **07 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Vacant **Site No.S-0634,** Katha No.1133, in the Layout formed by the Bharat Electronics Employees Co-operative House Building Society Limited as per layout plan approved by Bangalore Development Authority in Survey Nos.63/3, 67/2 and other survey numbers situated at **Herohalli Village, (Magadi Road), Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk,** measuring East: **9.15 Mtrs.**, West: **9.15 Mtrs.**, North: **15.25 Mtrs.**, and South: **15.25 Mtrs.**, in all **139.54 Square Mtrs** and bounded on:

East by : Site No.621, West by : 40 feet Road, North by : Site No. 633, South by : Site No.635

Shivakumar, Advocate
M/s. Rashi Legal
No.B2-1250/51, Manu Teja Towers, A Dasarahalli Magadi Main Road, Bangalore (North) -560079
M-9538178060

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Procurement E-Tender Notice No.: SE03-2025-26

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Repair and Servicing of Main Pantry (Buffet Car) and mini-party equipments of LHB AC Coaches of Carriage Workshop - Mysuru	**Rs. 48,73,952.38**

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 22.08.2025

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Mysuru

PUB/362/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: 17-CWM-UBLS-2025-26 Dated 28.07.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Eddy Current Array (ECA) testing of 9088 Nos. of LHB Wheel Sets at Carriage Repair Workshop, SWR/Hubballi/C&W Depot at Hubballi/C&W Depot at Vasco-Da-Gama/C&W Depot at Belgaum for a period of 24 months.	**Rs. 63,52,512.00 (Incl. of GST)**

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 20.08.2025

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Dy. Chief Workshop Manager/Hubballi

PUB/358/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL- II AT BENGALURU
New Premises at 4th Floor, Telephone House Building,
Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru-560001

Original Application NO: 166/2021

BETWEEN:
BANK OF BARODA ....**APPLICANT**
AND
Sri Raghavendra V & Ors ....**DEFENDANTS**

SUMMONS/NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS UNDER RULE 23(viii) OF DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993, BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

TO;

1. Sri Raghavendra V, S/o Venkatesh N R/a No.33, Siddaratha Layout Vivekananda Nagar, Bangalore South, Banashankari, 3rd Stage, Bangalore - 85.
2. Mrs Asha B N, W/o Ragahvendra V, R/a No.33, Siddaratha Layout Vivekananda Nagar, Bangalore South, Banashankari, 3rd Stage, Bangalore -85.
3. M/s Pruthvi Builders & Developers. A Partnership firm registered Under the Indian Partnership Act 1932 Having its Addressed at No.29/2, Second Floor, DR Lakshmi Complex, Hulimavu Gate, B G Road, bangalore - 560076.
4. Sri P Shankar S/o Pilappa, Partnership of M/s. Pruthvi Builders & Developers Address at No. 29/2, Senaipalli Complex, 2nd floor, Hulimavu Gate, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore 560076
5. Smt Nagaveeni W/o P Shankar, Partnership of M/s. Pruthvi Builders & Developers Address at No. 29/2, Senaipalli Complex, 2nd floor, Hulimavu Gate, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore 560076

Whereas, the applicant has instituted an application/interlocutory application under section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institution Act, 1993 against the defendants for recovery of a 4 Sum of **Rs. 37,32,476.66 /** with current and future interest cost and other reliefs. You are hereby required to show cause within **30 days** from the date of publication of the summons on or before **17.10.25 10.30 AM** in the forenoon in person or by Pleader/Advocate duly instructed as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the application/ interlocutory application will be heard and date remained in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this tribunal on this 18.06.2025.

Sd/-
Signature Of the Officer
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II
BENGALURU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my clients are intended to purchase the immovable property described in the Schedule below from **Mr.PREM RAHEJA,** S/o Late Sri.Kishore Ramchand Raheja, (i.e., Owner for the sake of brevity) and the said Owner has represented that he had acquired the Immovable Property being Residential House bearing **Site No.38,** in Division No.44, (Survey No.13, Mallenahalli, Bangalore North Taluk) in Chakravarthy Layout of Bangalore City Corporation and duly approved by the Bangalore Development Authority, presently within the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, bearing **Residential Site No.38,** PID No.78-120-38, New PID No.093-W-0157-20, **E-PID No.9105479028** situated at **CHAKRAVARTHY LAYOUT,** Bangalore, BBMP Ward No.93 & Name: Vasanthnagar, Measuring East to West :**48.6 + 58 / 2 Feet** and North to South : **40 Feet,** In all measuring : **2132 Square Feet (198.1 Square Meters)** alongwith a Residential Building comprised of Ground Floor plus 2 Upper Floors measuring about 4234 Square Feet of total built up area thereto, which more-fully described as the **SCHEDULE PROPERTY,** under a Deed of Family Arrangement dated 17.06.2016, registered as Document No.809/2016-17 of Book-I, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Malleshwaram, Bangalore and further represented that he is well seized, possessed and is perfectly entitled to deal with the Schedule Property as ABSOLUTE OWNER free from all claims, encumbrance/s and litigation/s etc.,

Any person / institution having any right, title, share, claim or interest of any nature in the Schedule Property or any objections of any manner whatsoever to the above sale transaction between my clients and the aforesaid owner, is/are hereby called upon to notify the undersigned and file written objections/claims along-with supporting documents within **15 (fifteen) days** from the date of publication of this Notice at the address mentioned below. If no such claim/s is/are received, it would be deemed that the above-mentioned owner has a valid, clear and marketable title to the Schedule Property specified below and that others do not have any claim over the same and /or claims if any will be deemed to have been waived. Any claims raised thereafter shall not be entertained or binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE and PARCEL of Immovable Property being Residential House bearing **Site No.38,** in Division No.44, (Survey No.13, Mallenahalli, Bangalore North Taluk) in Chakravarthy Layout of Bangalore City Corporation and duly approved by the Bangalore Development Authority, presently within the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, bearing **Residential Site No.38,** PID No.78-120-38, New PID No.093-W-0157-20, **E-PID No.9105479028** situated at **CHAKRAVARTHY LAYOUT,** Bangalore, BBMP Ward No.93 & Name: Vasanthnagar, together with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface

and Measuring
East to West : **48.6 + 58 / 2 Feet** and
North to South : **40 Feet,**
In all measuring : **2132 Square Feet (198.1 Square Meters)**
Bounded on the
East by : 30 feet Road
West by : Property bearing Nos. 40 and 41
North by : Property bearing No.37
South by : Property bearing No.39

Along-with Residential Building with structures standing thereon comprised of Ground Floor plus 2 Upper Floors including common area and terrace area measuring about 4234 Square Feet of total built up area construed with Bricks and Cement with RCC roofing and Marble Flooring, Honne wood doors and windows, with furniture/s, fittings and fixtures including civic amenities i.e., water, electricity and sanitary connections along-with sump with electric motor, overhead water tank, staircase etc.,. and enclosed by a compound wall fitted with an iron gate.

P.MANJUNATH, ADVOCATE
HM LEGAL, Office at No.24/10, 1st Floor, Haudin Road, Ulsoor, Bengaluru-560 042,
Mobile: 9945036969 (Timings: 11.00 AM to 08.00 P.M)

ಕೆನರಾ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

ಸಿಂಡಿಕೇಟ್ सिंडिकेट Syndicate

ARM Branch– II, 2nd Floor, Circle Office, Spencer Towers, No.86, M G Road, Bengaluru-560001.
Telephone Numbers 080-25310099, 080-25310181 | E-mail – cb6298@canarabank.com

DEMAND NOTICE [SECTION 13(2)] TO BORROWER/ GUARANTOR/MORTGAGOR

Ref:6298/SARFAESI/ARM II/382/2025-26 **Date: 31.07.2025**

To,
BORROWER/S 1. M/s Swabhiman Hospital Proprietrix: Dr.K S Vyjayanthi Sy no.85/4B, Battagere village, Puravara Hobli, Madhugiri Taluk Tumkur district **2. Also at: M/s Swabhiman Hospital** #109,2nd floor, 8th Main 18th cross, Malleshwaram Bengaluru-560055 **3. Dr.K S Vyjayanthi** W/o Subramaniam S No.19, Jeenugodu 2nd Main,5th cross Bahubali nagar, Jalahalli Bengaluru **GUARANTOR/S 1. Mr. Subramaniam S** S/o Sethuraman No.19, 2nd Main,5th cross Bahubali nagar, Jalahalli Bengaluru **Also at :** Mr. Subramaniam S NO 109,-Rathnam Complex 2nd floor, 8th main 18th Cross Malleshwaram Bengaluru 560055

Dear Sir,

Sub: Notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **Canara Bank ARM II branch** (hereinafter referred to as "the secured creditor"), appointed under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (hereinafter referred as the "Act") do hereby issue this notice to you as under:

That **M/s Swabhiman Hospital, represented by its Proprietrix, Dr. Vyjayanthi K S** (hereinafter referred to as "the **Borrower**") has availed credit facility / facilities stated in the **Schedule A** hereunder and have entered the security agreement/s in favour of the secured creditor. While availing the said financial assistance, you have expressly undertaken to repay the loan amount/s in accordance with the terms and conditions of the above-mentioned agreements.

That **Sri. Subramaniam S, s/o Sethuraman** (hereinafter referred to as "the **Guarantor**"), has guaranteed the payment on demand of all moneys and discharge all obligations and liabilities owing or incurred to the secured creditor by the Borrower for credit facilities **(Fund based / Non-Fund Based)** up to the limit of **Rs. 3,00,00,000/- (Rupees Three crores Only)** with interest thereon.

You **Dr.Vyjayanthi K S and Mr. Subramaniam S** have also entered into agreements against the secured assets which are detailed in Schedule B hereunder.

However, from **June 2016**, the operation and conduct of the said financial assistance / credit facilities have become irregular. The books of account maintained by the secured assets shows that the liability of the Borrower towards the secured creditor as **on 30.07.2025** amounts to **Rs. 15,33,54,829.08/- (Rupees Fifteen Crores Thirty-Three lakhs Fifty four thousand Eight hundred Twenty Nine and Eight paisa Only) + further Interest and charges thereon,** the details of which together with future interest rate are stated in **Schedule C** hereunder. It is further stated that the Borrower/Guarantor having failed to keep up with the terms of the above said agreement in clearing the dues of the secured creditor within the time given and have been evasive in settling the dues. The operation and conduct of the above said financial assistance / credit facility/ies having come to a standstill and as a consequence of the default committed in repayment of principal debt/ instalment and interest thereon, the secured creditor was constrained to classify the debt as **Non- Performing Asset (NPA) as on 29.09.2016** in accordance with the directives/guidelines relating to asset classification issued by the Reserve Bank of India.

The secured creditor through this notice brings to your attention that the Borrower has failed and neglected to repay the said dues/ outstanding liabilities and hence hereby demand you under Section 13(2) of the Act, by issuing this notice to discharge in full the liabilities of the Borrower as stated in **Schedule C** hereunder to the secured creditor **within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice.** Further, it is brought to your notice that you are also liable to pay future interest at the rate of mentioned in **schedule C** together with all costs, charges, expenses and incidental expenses with respect to the proceedings undertaken by the secured creditor in recovering its dues.

Please take note of the fact that if you fail to repay to the secured creditor the aforesaid sum of **Rs. 15,33,54,829.08/- (Rupees Fifteen Crores Thirty Three lakhs Fifty four thousand Eight hundred Twenty Nine and Eight paisa Only) as on 30.07.2025,** together with further interest **(as stated in schedule C)** and incidental expenses and costs as stated above in terms of this notice under Section 13(2) of the Act, the secured creditor will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub-section (4)(a) and (b) of Section 13, the extract of which is given here below to convey the seriousness of this issue:

13(4)- In case the Borrower/Guarantor fails to discharge liability in full within the period specified in sub-section (2), the secured creditor may take recourse to one or more of the following measures to recover his secured debt, namely.

(a) Take possession of the secured assets of the Borrower/Guarantor including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset;
(b) Take over the management of the business of the Borrower including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment, or sale for realizing the secured asset:

Provided that the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale shall be exercised only where the substantial part of the business of the Borrower is held as security for the debt;

Provided further that where the management of whole of the business or part of the business is severable, the secured creditor shall take over the management of such business of the borrower which is relatable to the security for the debt and under other applicable provisions of the said Act.

Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

You are also put on notice that in terms of **Section 13(13) the Borrower/Guarantor shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed in Schedule B hereunder without obtaining written consent of the secured creditor.** It is further brought to your notice that any contravention of this statutory injunction/ restraint, as provided under the said Act, is an offence and if for any reason, the secured assets are sold or leased out in the ordinary course of business, the sale proceeds or income realized shall be deposited with the secured creditor. In this regard you shall have to render proper accounts of such realization / income.

This notice of Demand is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other rights or remedies which the secured creditor may have included further demands for the sums found due and payable by you.

This is without prejudice to any other rights available to the secured creditor under the Act and/or any other law in force.

Please comply with the demand under this notice and avoid all unpleasantness. In case of non- compliance, further needful action will be resorted to, holding you liable for all costs and Consequence.

Thanking you
Yours faithfully,
For CANARA BANK
AUTHORIZED OFFICER

SCHEDULE –A
[Details of the credit facility/ies availed by the Borrowers]

Sl	Loan No	Nature of Loan/Limit	Date of sanction	Sanctioned Amount (Rs.)	Disbursed Amount (Rs.)
1	0522773011384	MSME TERM LOAN	02.07.2012	3,00,00,000/-	2,95,95,000/-

SCHEDULE –B
[Details of security assets]
Details of Immovable Assets (PRIME SECURITY)

1. All that piece and parcel of land measuring 43 Acres and 5 Guntas located at various Sy nos as described as below along with building situated at Sy no.85/4B (converted land) in Battagere village, Puurvara Hobli, Madhugiri Taluk:

Sl	Sy nos	Extent	Location	Boundaries	Name of the Owner
1	86/2	2 Acres 33 Guntas	Battagere village, Puruvara Hobli, Madhugiri Taluk	**East:** Land of Hoskote Erappa and sons **West:** Land of Poonjar Thimmakka **North**: Government Road **South**: Land of Naviladaku Thimmanna	Dr. Vyjayanthi k s
2	86/6	1 Acre 28 Guntas	Battagere village, Puruvara Hobli, Madhugiri Taluk	**East:** Land of Hoskote Erappa and sons **West:** Land of Poonjar Thimmakka **North**: Government Road **South**: Land of Naviladaku Thimmanna	
3	86/9	1 Acre 13 Guntas	Battagere village, Puruvara Hobli, Madhugiri Taluk	**East:** Naviladaku Gadi and Land of Chikkanarasappa **West:** Land of Narayanappa and Thimmaiah **North:** Land of Lingappa **South :** Land of S N Mallaiah	
4	86/10	1 Acre 03 Guntas	Battagere village, Puruvara Hobli, Madhugiri Taluk	**East:** Naviladaku Gadi and Land of Chikkanarasappa **West:** Land of Narayanappa and Thimmaiah **North:** Land of Lingappa **South :** Land of S N Mallaiah	
5	86/11	1 Acre 16 Guntas	Battagere village, Puruvara Hobli, Madhugiri Taluk	**East:** Naviladaku Gadi and Land of Chikkanarasappa **West:** Land of Narayanappa and Thimmaiah **North:** Land of Lingappa **South :** Land of S N Mallaiah	
6	85/4A	7 Acre 06 Guntas	Battagere village, Puruvara Hobli, Madhugiri Taluk	**East:** Naviladaku Gadi and Land of Chikkanarasappa **West:** Land of Narayanappa and Thimmaiah **North:** Land of Lingappa **South :** Land of S N Mallaiah	
7	88/4	5 Acre 20 Guntas	Battagere village, Puruvara Hobli, Madhugiri Taluk	**East:** Land of Lingappa **West**: Land of Venkata Narasappa and **North:** Land of Ramakrishnappa and others **South**: Land of Sy no. 88/5	
8	85/4B	8 Acre 01 Guntas	Battagere village, Puruvara Hobli, Madhugiri Taluk	**East:** Land of Ramaiah **West:** Poonjar Thimmaiah and Linganna **North**: Land of T Dasappa **South**: Arasapura Gadi	
9	86/12	4 Acre 19 Guntas	Battagere village, Puruvara Hobli, Madhugiri Taluk	**East:** Land of R M Krishnamurthy **West:** Land of R M Krishnamurthy **North**: Land of Mylarappa **South:** Govt Road	
10	85/3	3 Acres 04 Guntas	Battagere village, Puruvara Hobli, Madhugiri Taluk	**East :** Land of Moulana sab **West :** Land of lIngappa **North :** Land of Gorappa **South :** land of Applicant	
11	88/5	5 Acres 11 out of which 2-27 Guntas	Battagere village, Puruvara Hobli, Madhugiri Taluk	**East :** Arasapurada Gadi **West :** Land of Venkataravanappa **North :** Land of Sy no. 88/4 **South :** Land of Gaviyappa	
12	86/1	4 Acres 32 Guntas out of which 1 acre	Battagere village, Puruvara Hobli, Madhugiri Taluk	**East:** Land of Hoskote Erappa and his sons **West:** Land of Poonjar Thimmakka **North :** Government Road **South :** Land of Naviladaku Thimmanna	
13	86/5	1 Acre 23 Guntas ,out of which 0.32 Guntas	Battagere village, Puruvara Hobli, Madhugiri Taluk	**East:** Land of Hoskote Erappa and his sons **West:** Land of Poonjar Thimmakka **North :** Government Road **South :** Land of Naviladaku Thimmanna	
14	86/7	1 Acre 29 Guntas, out of which 0.35 Guntas	Battagere village, Puruvara Hobli, Madhugiri Taluk	**East:** Land of Hoskote Erappa and his sons **West:** Land of Poonjar Thimmakka **North :** Government Road **South :** Land of Naviladaku Thimmanna	
15	86/7	1 Acre 29 Guntas, out of which 0.34 Guntas	Battagere village, Puruvara Hobli, Madhugiri Taluk	**East :**Land of Lingappa and others **West :** Remaining land of same Sy no belonged to applicant **North :** Land of Ashwathappa **South :** Land of Applicant	
16	86/8 (old) 86/16 (New)	1 Acre 14 Guntas, out of which 0.13.08 Guntas	Battagere village, Puruvara Hobli, Madhugiri Taluk	**East :** Land of Applicant **West :** Land of mylarappa **North :** Land of Applicant **South :** Land of Malathy	
17	139	4 Acres out of which 2.00 acres	Naviladaku village, Puravara Hobli, Madhugiri Taluk	**East :** Land of Muthappa **West :** Land of Kumbinarasaiah **North :** Land of Gangadharappa **South :** Govt Road	

Collateral Property

Sl	Details of Immovable assets	Name of the Owner
2	All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing No.12A (Eastern portion), in corporation ward no.2, Jalahalli village, Yeshwantpur hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk measuring East to west: 31 feet and North to **South :** 36+37 / 2 Feet and bounded as follows on :**East by :** Private property **West by:** Property of Sri.R. Sashidhar **North by:** Property of Sri. Mahendranath **South by:** Road All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing No.12A(Western portion), in corporation ward no.2, Jalahalli village, Yeshwantpur hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk measuring East to west : 30 feet ,North to **South :** 36+35 / 2 Feet and bounded as follows : **East by :** Property belongs to Mr.Narendra Babu **West by:** Property No.12 **North by:** Property of Sri. Mahendranath **South by:** Road	**Mr. Subramaniam S**
3	All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential building, Basaveshwara nilaya, bearing corporation Site No.6, in ward no.2,Site no.22,formed out of Sy no.74/1,Jalahalli village, Yeswanthapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Babhubalinagar, measuring East to West 55/2=27.50', North to South 48' with construction in Ground, First and Second Floor measuring 21 squares of building with mosaic and sal windows bounded on :**East by:** Property of Srikantachari **West by :** Property in Sy no.73 and property already alienated by the vendor **North by :** Property of Mahadevaiah **South by:** Road	**Dr. Vyjayanthi K S**

SCHEDULE –C
[Details of liability as on date 30.07.2025)

Sl	Loan No	Nature of Loan/Limit	Total Liability with interest as on date 30.07.2025	Rate of Interest
1	0522773011384	MSME TERM LOAN	Rs.15,33,54,829.08/-	16.85%

***Our Earlier Demand Notice Dated 28.04.2020 stands cancelled.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the public that my client Sri. A. R. Ranganath has lost the Partition Deed dated 09.05.2014 Registered as Doc. No. RJN-1-00717/2014-15, stored in CD No. RJND265 Book No. I, registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Rajajiangar Bengaluru on 04.08.2025 between12.00 a.m. to 11.59 am while transit at Laggere Circle.The said documents were related to Residential property bearing No. 59, 60, 65 and 66, Khatha No. 423, formed in Sy. No. 4, EPID No. 2152980826, Situated at Laggere Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Measuring

East to **West 60 ft.**, **North** to **South** 80 ft., **totally measuring 4800 sq. ft.,**

If any person/s who finds it, is requested to return the same to us at below mention address:

Subrahmanya Hegde,
Advocate,
ANANDA & HEGDE LAW ASSOCIATES,
#76-77, Krishna Krupa Building,
Ground Floor, 2nd Main Road,
Sheshadripuram, Bangalore-20.
Mob: 9060069259.

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II
Karnataka, BSNL Building, Fourth Floor,
Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road
Bengaluru - 560 001

(O.A. No. 1111 of 2023)

Between : BANK OF INDIA
Rajarajeshwari Nagar Branch **...Applicant**
And : M/s Vishal Motors and Others
...Defendants

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (Procedure) RULES 1993 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

Defendants 1 to 5:-

1) **M/s Vishal Motors,** Represented by its Authorized Signatories Sri. B. Vijay Kumar, Sri. V.K. Hari Babu, Sri. Srinu .B, Smt. K. Dhanalakshmi, # 5, 2nd Main, Nayandahalli South Block, Near VMR Kalyanamantapa, Bangalore-560039.
2) **Sri. B. Vijay Kumar** S/o. Sri. K. Bhaskar Aged about 43 Years, S-03, HEXAGON SUBHADRA, 2nd Floor, 1st Main, Nayandahalli South Layout, Bengaluru - 560039.
3) **Sri. V.K. Hari Babu** S/o V. Keshavanaidu Aged about 41 Years, Flat #1, Saikrishna Pradsie, 2nd Cross, Naidu Layout, Arehalli, Bangalore-560061.
4) **Sri. Srinu .B** S/o. Sri. Ramachandraiah, Aged about 35 Years, # 27/3, ITI Layout, Nayandahalli, Bangalore-560039.
5) **Smt. K. Dhanalakshmi** W/o. Sri. B. Vijay Kumar, Aged about 36 Years, S-03, HEXAGON SUBHADRA, 2nd Floor, 1st Main, Nayandahalli South Layout, Bengaluru - 560039.

WHEREAS the applicant has instituted an application U/s-19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institution Act, 1993 against you for the recovery of Rs. 25,24,344.78 P.s (Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs Twenty Four Thousand Three Hundred and Forty Four and decimal Seventy Eight only) together with current and future interest and other reliefs.

The above mentioned Defendants are therefore hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal is person or through an Advocate or duly authorized agent, in support of their defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or **on 22 September 2025 at 10.30 a.m. (forenoon)** as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.

Given under my hand and the seal of this tribunal on this 24th day of July 2025.

By order of the Tribunal, Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-II
Bengaluru - 560 025.

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Union Bank of India

भारत सरकार का उपक्रम
A Government of India Undertaking

Regional Office: 2254, "Kousalya", 3rd Floor, South Wing, Vinoba Road, Mysore - 570 005

POSSESSION NOTICE

(See Rule 8(1)Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the Undersigned being the authorised officer of **Union Bank Of India, Regional Office, Mysuru** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Sec 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) to repay the amount together with the future interest. till payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s, Guarantor/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sec 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on below mentioned date.

The Borrower/s and Guarantor/s in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the Union Bank of India, for an amount mentioned in the below column + interest and costs thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to the borrower to redeem the secured assets.

Union Bank Of India, Harohalli Branch, Kempaiah Building, Opp To KSRTC Bus Stand, Harohalli, Ramanagara Dt.- 562112
Contact No:9321414581, Mail Id: ubin0814580@unionbankofindia.bank

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrowers/ Co-Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgager	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Total Dues	Description of the Immovable Properties	Date of Possession Taken
1	1) **Mr. Balegowda** S/o Hucheeregowwda Alias Karigowda, Chikkadevarahalli Village, Maralvadi Hobli, Kanakapura, Ramanagara – 562112, 2) **Mrs. Sunanda** W/o Mr. Balegowda, Chikkadevarahalli Village, Maralavadi Hobli, Kanakapura, Ramanagara – 562112 3) **Ms. Navyashree,** D/o Baalegowda, Chikkadevarahalli Village, Maralavadi Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara – 562112, 4) **Mr. Nithin Gowda,** S/o Baalegowda, Chikkadevarahalli Village, Maralavadi Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara – 562112, 5) **Mr. Pradeep M.V.** S/o Venkatakrishnayya, # 71, Marasandra, Harohalli, Kanakapura, Ramanagara - 562112.	**14/02/2025 & Rs. 3,90,859/-**	**Rs. 4,11,355/- (Plus Interest & Other Charges thereon)**	All The Part And Parcel Of Residential House In The Name Of **Mr. Balegowda,** Bearing No Kaneshumari No. Old No. 211/48 New No. 99/48, Computer No. 152900201300200358, Chikkadevarahalli Village, T.hosahalli Grama Panchayath, Maralavadi Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District **Measuring E-W: 19.35 Meters, N-S: 27.43 Meters. Total: 529.40 Square meters, Bounded By East:** Other Property Belongs To The Applicant, **West:** Property Of Bale Gowda, **North:** Road, **South:** Road Leading To Doddasadenahalli.	**04-08-2025**
2	1) **Mrs. Manjula C & Other's** (LR/s Of Mr. Swamy M) , W/o Late Swamy, Karadi Gudde Pipeline Road Samrat Ashoka Nagara Kanakapura Town Ramanagara - 562117	**22-11-2024 & Rs. 16,56,099/-**	**Rs. 4,11,355/- (Plus Interest & Other Charges thereon)**	All The Part And The Parcel Of Residential House In The Name Of **Mr. Late. Swamy M.** Bearing No 77, CMC Khatha No 9020/7710/77, Situated At Eastern Side Of Mysuru Road, Pipe Line Road, Kanakapura, Ramanagara – 562117, **Measuring E-W : 40 Feet, N-S : 20 Feet, Total 800 Square feet, , Bounded By East-** Site No 76, **West-** Road, **North-** Site No 78, **South-** Road	**04-08-2025**
3	1) **Borrower Mr. Basavaraju M**, S/o Late Madanna, # 898, Kote Beedi, Harohalli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara – 562112, 2. **Co-applicant Mr. Kiran H B,** S/o Basavaraju M, # 898, Kote Beedi, Harohalli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara – 562112, 3. **Co-obligant: Ms. Shilpa H B,** D/o Basavaraju M, # 898, Kote Beedi, Harohalli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara – 562112, 4) **Mrs Saraswathi** W/o Basavaraju M, # 898, Kote Beedi, Harohalli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara – 562112	**14-02-2025 & Rs. 4,37,081/-**	**Rs. 4,23,518/- (Plus Interest & Other Charges thereon)**	All That Piece And Parcel Of Residential House In The Name Of **Basavaraju M,** Property Bearing No. K.No 247/3/175/11D Situated Near Shambulingeswara Temple, Kote, Harohalli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramnagara District **Measuring East To West 19 Feet And North To South 40 Feet All Measuring 760 Square feet And Bounded By: East:** Road, **West:** Property Of Shivamadamma, **North:** House Of Kalaiah, **South :** Property Of Sathyamurthy.	**04-08-2025**

Date : 04-08-2025
Place : Mysuru

Sd/- Authorized Officer
Union Bank of India

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, MEDICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING, UTTAR PRADESH, 6th FLOOR, JAWAHAR BHAWAN, LUCKNOW.

No. ME-3/2025/1812 Lucknow : Dated 06/08/2025

-::EXTENDED TIME SCHEDULE FOR "FIRST ROUND" OF UP NEET UG COUNSELING 2025 (M.B.B.S./B.D.S.)::-

In the continuation of the extended time schedule issued by the Medical Counseling Committee (MCC) New Delhi for NEET UG counseling, the **Extended Time Schedule of the first round of UP NEET UG Counseling 2025** for admission to state quota seats of MBBS/BDS courses in government/private medical/dental colleges/institutions/ universities is as follows:-

S.No.	Description	Dates	Total Days
1.	Date of online registration and uploading of documents	**From:-** 08-08-2025 (11:00 AM) **To:-** 11-08-2025 (11:00 AM)	03 days
2.	Date of depositing registration and security money	**From:-** 08-08-2025 (11:00 AM) **To:-** 11-08-2025 (02:00 PM)	04 days
3.	Date of merit list declaration	**On:-** 11-08-2025	01 days
4.	Date of On-line Choice filling	**From:-** 11-08-2025 (05:00 PM) **To:-** 13-08-2025 (05:00 PM)	02 days
5.	Date of Allotment Result Declaration	**On:-** 14-08-2025	01 days
6.	Date for downloading the allotment letters & Admission	**From:-** 18-08-2025 **To:-** 23-08-2025 & **From:-** 25-08-2025 **To:-** 26-08-2025	08 days

- Candidates should assess their eligibility themselves as per the instructions contained in the government order/brochure of UP NEET UG 2025.
- Only those candidates will be eligible for choice filling who have completed the registration process and whose original documents have been verified online and who have deposited the security Fee.
- Candidates who have already completed online registration, document verification and deposited registration fee and security money as per the schedule issued earlier for the first round of counseling of UP NEET UG 2025, are not required to re-register, re-verify documents and deposit registration fee and security money.
- Such candidates, who have locked their choices after choice filling between 31.07.2025 to 04.08.2025 as per the schedule issued earlier for the first round counseling of UP NEET UG 2025, no request for unlocking of their choices or making changes in the choices filled by them will be considered.
- The brochure and important instructions of UP NEET UG 2025 are available on the **website www.upneet.in** and **www.dgme.up.gov.in.** Keep visiting regularly for updated information.
- Other terms and conditions will remain same.
- **Helpline Numbers: 8189011696, 8189011697, 8189011698, 8189011699, 8189011700**

DIRECTOR GENERAL

Bihar Skill Development Mission (BSDM)

Department of Labour Resources, Government of Bihar

Govt. of Bihar
A-Wing, 5th Floor, Niyojan Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna-800001
Phone: 0612-2528455 Fax: 0612-2535004
Email: biharskilldevelopmentmission@gmail.com **Website:** www.skillmissionbihar.org

RFP No: BSDM/Mega Skill Center/2024-01 **Notice Inviting Request for Proposal**

Secretary, Dept. of Labour Resources, Govt. of Bihar- cum- CEO, Bihar Skill Development Mission (BSDM), invites proposals **(Two Bid System)** for Selection of experienced and qualified Agency to set up Mega Skill Centre in Energy 4.0 & Industry 4.0 for Bihar Skill Development Mission (BSDM).

Kindly note that the selection of agency under this RFP will not guarantee allocation of work and BSDM will assume no liability or cost towards it. BSDM makes no commitments, expresses or implied that this process will result in a business transaction between anyone.

Document Fee and Tender Processing Fee: All Applicants have to pay a **non-refundable** Document Fee of Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only) and Tender Processing Fee of Rs. 590.00 (Five Hundred Ninety only) **through e-payment mode** (i.e. NEFT/RTGS/Credit Card/Debit Card) on E-Proc Portal.

Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): An EMD of Rs. 40,00,000/- (forty Lakh) only, **through e-payment mode** (i.e. NEFT/RTGS/Credit Card/Debit Card) on E-Proc Portal, well before the last date/time for submission/ uploading of offer/Bid, failing which the bid will be rejected. This EMD will be non-interesting and refundable. If the selected bidder fails to submit the requisite performance guarantee or to execute the agreement, this EMD will be forfeited.

The Proposal has to be submitted through online mode on https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in and can be searched by clicking the Tab "Tender" on home page of above website and then going to Latest Tender by searching Department Name as "Labour Resources Department".

The Proposal has to be submitted in online mode containing following cover stage-
A) Technical Bid Open Stage and B) Cost Bid Open Stage

The application procedure, eligibility criteria, evaluation methodology, terms and conditions and the scope of work are detailed in this RFP which can be seen or downloaded from the "e-Procurement Portal https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in and departmental **website:** http://www.skillmissionbihar.org. The RFP will be available to download from the above websites from **Date-06.08.2025**. The **Pre-bid meeting** will be held on **03:00 PM of Date-14.08.2025 days physically.** The last date for uploading of proposal/bid will be **Date-27.08.2025 days up to 15.00 Hrs.** Technical Bid will be opened on or after **Date-27.08.2025 days post 16:00 Hrs. The Evaluation of Bids will be under Least Cost System.** Please refer RFP document for complete details.

The undersigned reserves the right to issue addendum/corrigendum/modification or to amend any or all conditions of this RFP Document or to accept or reject any or all proposal(s) or to cancel the whole of this RFP at any stage without assigning any reason thereof and no bidder shall have any cause of action or claim against the undersigned for the same.

Mission Director,
Bihar Skill Development Mission,
Department of Labour Resources, Govt. of Bihar

For further details please visit : **www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar**
PR- 010882 (Labour) 2025-26

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & QA),
9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G Road, Bangalore - 560 009.

BWSSB/CE(D&QA)/ACE/TA/1337/2025-26 Date: 04.08.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only through KPP Portal)

BWSSB invites tender in two cover tender system from eligible tenderers for the work of **sinking of 6.5 inch dia new borewell with necessary accessories at various locations of Shivajinagar Constituency and East Zone coming under AEE (BW&PS)-2-1 Sub Division**.

Amount put to tender: **Rs. 1,85,81,179/-**. EMD: **Rs. 2,78,800/-.**

Last date and time for reciept of tenders will be on **28.08.2025** upto **16:00 hrs**. The bids will be opened on **29.08.2025** at **16:00 hrs**. The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Design & QA)

DIPR/CP/MIA/2226/2025-26

SVC CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.

Corporate Office : LEGAL & RECOVERY DEPT.
SVC Tower, Nehru Road, Vakola, Santacruz (E), Mumbai- 400 055.

Having one of its branches at : Katari Kunj, 9th Cross, Opp. St. John's college, Behind Vijay Mansion, Hampinagar, Vijayangar, Bengaluru 560 104
Having its Regional office at : No.1,Central Bank Road, Chamrajpet, Bangalore-560 018, PH: 080 71231027 TO 32

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/Mortagagors and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured creditor, the Symbolic Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the SVC Co-Operative Bank Ltd.,(Formerly Known as The Shamrao Vittal Co-operative Bank Ltd) will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is what is", "Whatever there is basis" and "Without recourse" basis on **11-09-2025** for recovery of **Rs.29,44,52,697.82** (Rupees Twenty Nine Crore Forty Four Lakhs Fifty Two Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Seven and Paisa Eighty Two Only) as on **31-07-2025** together with future interest from **01-08-2025** at contractual rate plus legal costs/charges due to SVC Co-operative Bank Ltd., the Secured Creditor, from the Borrower/ Guarantors/Mortgagors Guarantors **(1) M/s. Devkiran Paper Mills Pvt. Ltd.,** No. 919, 1st Floor, 2nd Cross, 5th Main, M.C. Layout, Vijaynagar, Bangalore 560 040, Also at : Sy. No 24, Gudimavu Village, Kumabalgodu post, Bengaluru-560074. (PRINCIPAL BORROWER & MORTGAGOR). **(2) Mr. R. H. Sreenivasa Setty,** 915-A, Sai Enclave apartment, Flat No. 04, Second floor, Ideal home Township,19th Main, 19th Cross, RR Nagar, Bangalore 560098. **(3) Mr. R.H. Ramakrishna Setty**, No.2930-2, k4, 8th cross, Chanudipuram, K R Mohalla, Lakshmi Puram, Mysore-570004, Also at : No. 294/1A, SNS Temple Street, Mysore 570004. **(4) Mr. Prashanth R** .S No.915, SF, Sai Enclave, 19th Main , Ideal Homes township R R Nagar, Bangalore- 560 098, Also at : Flat No. 834, 3rd Floor, Wing- 08, "Suguna Upper Crest Apartment", Halagevederahalli village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore 560 098. (GUARANTORS /MORTGAGORS) **(5) Mr. R.T. Kiran** No .80/2, 14thCross, 5thMain, Mahalakshmi Layout, Bengaluru-560086, Also at : No.84, Hunsur Road, K.R.Nagar, Mysore-571602. **(6) Mr.R.R.Murali,** No. 130, 5th Main, Prashant Nagar, Basaweshwarnagar, Bangalore-560 079.GUARANTORS.

The reserve price will be **Rs.3,90,00,000/-** (Rupees Three Crore Ninety Lakhs Only) and the Earnest Money Deposit will be **Rs.39,00,000/-** (Rupees Thirty Nine Lakhs Only).

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Municipal Old Khatha/Assessment No.3567/3449 and the present Khatha/Assessment No.3449/3343, situated at Hunsur Road, K.R. Nagar Town, Mysore District, measuring East to West 100 Feet and South to North on the Eastern Side 100 Feet and on the Western Side 95 Feet (100 x 100 + 95/2), in all measuring 9750 Square Feet and bounded on East by: House of Adilakshmamma, West by:House of Jayaramegowda, North by:Municipal Galli & South by: Hunsur Main Road.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer to the link provided in SVC Co-operative Bank Ltd., the Secured Creditor's website i.e. **https://www.svcbank.com/Notice-Sale**

Date : 06.08.2025 **Sd/- Sarathy Somiah, Authorized Officer &**
Place : Bengaluru **Assistant General Manager,**

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL
BENGALURU BENCH
(COMPANY APPLICATION NO.: CA(CAA)/10/BB/2024)

FORM NO. CAA. 2
[Pursuant to Section 230 (3) and rule 6 and 7)]
Company Application (CAA) No 10 of 2024

Health Secure Hospitals Private Limited ("Transferor Company")
Corporate Identification Number: U85190KA2021PTC143563
Registered Office Address: 222, 4th Phase, Akshay Colony, Vidya Nagar, Hubli, Dharwad, Karnataka – 580 021 **Ph: 97412-72222**
E-Mail:dranilbidri@securehospital.in; **Website:** www.securehospital.in

AND

Health Secure Hospitals Care & Solutions PVT Ltd. ("TransfereeCompany")
Corporate Identification Number: U85110KA2004PTC035114
Registered Office Address: Anand Chambers, No.14/1 (Old No.35/1), 203, 2nd Floor, 14th Cross, Elephant Rock Rd., Jayanagar 3rd Block, Bengaluru, Karnataka – 560 011 **Ph: 97412-72222**
E-Mail:dranilbidri@securehospital.in; **Website:** www.securehospital.in

In the matter of Company Scheme of Amalgamation between Heath Secure Hospitals Private Limited ("**Transferor Company**") & Health Secure Hospitals Care & Solutions Private Limited ("**Transferee Company**") and their respective shareholders and creditors under **Sections 230- 232** of the **Companies Act, 2013** read with rules framed thereunder

Health Secure Hospitals Care & Solutions Private Limited, a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 on 30.11.2004; bearing Corporate Identification Number of **U85110KA2004PTC035114**; & having its registered office at: Anand Chambers, No.14/1 (Old No.35/1), 203, 2nd Floor, 14th Cross, Elephant Rock Road., Jayanagar 3rd Block, Bengaluru, Karnataka – 560 011

...Applicant Company 2/Transferee Company/Company

Notice and Advertisement of
Dispensation of the Meetings of Creditors and Members

NOTICE is hereby given that by the **Order dated the 21.07.2025** ("**Order**") the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Bangalore Bench("**Tribunal**" or "**NCLT**") has issued directions as follows in respect of **M/s Health Secure Hospitals Private Limited (Transferor-Company) & M/s Health Secure Hospital Care & Solutions Private Limited (Transferee-Company),** for the purpose of considering, and approving the amalgamation of the said companies, pursuant to Sections 230- 232 and 234 of the Companies Act, 2013:

(I) The meetings of the Equity Shareholders of the Transferor Companies are hereby dispensed with;
(ii) The meeting of the Secured Creditors of the Transferor Companies are hereby dispensed with;
(iii) The meeting of the Unsecured Creditors of the Transferor Companies are hereby dispensed with;
(iv) The meetings of the Equity Shareholders, Secured and Unsecured Creditors of the Transferee Company are hereby dispensed with

Further, the Hon'ble NCLT vide the said Order dated 21.07.2025 allowed the First Motion Application bearing : **C.A. (CAA) No.10/BB/2024** *inter alia* also directing the Applicant Companies to issue paper publication about the dispensation of meetings by the Hon'ble Tribunal, in regards of the said Merger, in bothvernacular language and in English; and, also giving liberty to the Applicant Companies to file the Second Motion Petition in accordance with law;

Therefore, in pursuance of the aforesaid Order and as directed therein and in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 ("Act"); Rules framed thereunder; and circulars issued thereunder by the Competent Authority, as amended from time to time, this Paper Publication is issued. Copies of the said amalgamation, and of the statement under section 230, may be obtained free of charge by interested parties at the registered office of the Transferee- Company

The said amalgamation will be subject to the subsequent approval by the **Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal Bench at Bengaluru** of the Second Motion Petition that the Applicant- Companies plan/ propose to file before the Hon'ble NCLT.

Dated this Seventh day of August, 2025

Sd/-
Dr. Anilkumar Bidri,
Director,
Transferor-Company

Sd/-.
Dr. Anilkumar Bidri,
Director,
Transferee-Company

TIDEL PARK LTD.

(An ISO 9001/14001/45001 Company)
CIN No. U74999TN1997PLC039523
No.4, Rajiv Gandhi Salai, Taramani, Chennai – 600 113.Tel: 044 2254 0500 / 501, Fax: 2254 1744 www.tidelpark.com I tenders@tidelpark.com

E-Tender Notice No: TIDEL/2025-2026/16 Date:07.08.2025

E- TENDER NOTICE FOR OUTSOURCING OF SECURITY AND FIREFIGHTING SERVICES

TIDEL Park Ltd invites e-tender for Outsourcing Security and Fire Fighting Services of its IT Park at Taramani, Chennai.
For more details and participation in the above e-tender, please visit the website **https:/www.tntenders.gov.in/**. Last date for online submission of duly filled in tender documents is **3.00 p.m. on 08.09.2025**. TIDEL reserves the right to accept /reject any one/all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

DIPR/4231/TENDER/2025 **Managing Director**

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (DESIGNS)
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, PUDUCHERRY

No.489/PW/EE(D)/AE(D)/2025-26 Puducherry, the 05/08/2025

PRESS NOTICE:
Invitation for Contractor Engagement Survey & Virtual Meeting

PWD, Government of Puducherry has proposed to avail ADB loan (Phase-1) to a tune of Rs.1,500 Cr. for Urban Livability Project. Potential contractors who are interested may participate in the virtual meeting after filling the online survey form on or before 13/08/25 at 4.00 pm. For more details, please visit **https://pwd.py.gov.in.**

Executive Engineer (Designs)

No.309/DIP/AD(Press)/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Public Works, Department, Sirasi Division(U.K), Karnataka Ph: 08384-223164, Fax: 08384-224100

No. PWD/SR./Dn/AE/IFT/5054MDR.Imp/ 2025-26/1099 Date: 01.08.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT) (2nd Call) KW-4

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION (SHORT TERM)

(1) The Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Sirasi invites tenders from eligible tenderers, for the construction of works detailed in the Table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for any or all of the works given in the Table. **The price tender which will be opened only if the Tenderer is found to be qualified to execute the tendered works. The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Instructions to Tenderers to qualify for award of the contract. (26.03.2021)** (2) Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-Procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam** under login for Contractors: (3) Tenders must be accompanied by EMD Declaration form Proforma attached (4) Tenders must be electronically submitted (on-line through internet) with in the date and time published in e-procurement portal. The technical bid will be opened after prescribed time and date in the eprocurement portal, in the presence of the Tenderers who wish to attend at the Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Department, SIRSI Division. (5) Other details can be seen in the tender documents
(Total: 1 Work)
(1) Last date and time for Tender Queries/Clarifications: **11-08-2025 up to 16.00.00** (2) Last Date and Time for receipt of tenders: **12-08-2025 up to 16.00.00** (3) Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid: **13-08-2025 @ 16.30.00** (4) Date and Time for opening of Financial Bid: **14-08-2025 @ 16.00.00**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Public Work Department Division
Sirsi (Uttara Kannada)

DIPR/ADK/KSMCA/350/25-26 Dt.06.08.2025

Govt.of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation, Division Vijayapur

Tel.No:08352-277941, E-mail: eerdwsd.bjp@gmail.com
No:EE/RDWSD/VJP/KPPP/Tender/2025-26/666
Dated:05.08.2025

KPPP PORTAL TENDER NOTIFICATION SHORT TERM

On behalf of Governor of Govt. of Karnataka Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking water and sanitation division, Vijayapur has invited tender through KPPP Portal for water supply works under MVS O&M & ISA (IEC & HRD) Activity head of accounts as follows.
Two Cover : 05 Works
Last date for submission of online tender through KPPP Portal is **16.08.2025 at 5.30 PM.** Date of opening of Technical bid is **18.08.2025 at 11.00 AM.** Date of opening of Finanical bid is **19.08.2025 at 11.00 AM or After Approving Technical Bid.**
More details can be have from the office of the undersigned and also through www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- (Shri Tharanath Shankar)
Executive Engineer, RDW&S Division, Vijayapur

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/238/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites Expression of Interest from Transporters, Logistics Service Providers, Developing Firms, Container Train Operators, Government / Semi Government Agencies and statutory bodies under Central / State Govt. etc. for development of Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminals (GCT) either entirely or partially on Railway land at Hanakere Station in Bengaluru Division.

Last date for Submission EOT on: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 13.08.2025**
For details log on: www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in

PUB/365/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Bengaluru**

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that our clients intend to purchase the property described in the Schedule hereunder ("Schedule Property") from Shri. Gonchikar Raya alias G. H. Hanumantharaya, son of late Gonchikar Hanumanthappa based on the representation that he is the sole and absolute owner thereof with uninhabited rights of alienation over the same.

Any person claiming to have any manner of right, title, claim or interest in the Schedule Property is hereby called upon to notify the undersigned with supporting documents thereof within Seven (7) days from the date of this notice, after which period, our clients shall proceed with the purchase thereof on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the Schedule Property or any part thereof nor any objections for sale thereof by Shri. Gonchikar Raya alias G. H. Hanumantharaya, through his attorney Shri. Ganesh K. S., son of Shri. Shivalingaiah, to our clients.

SCHEDULE
(Description of the Schedule Property)

All that piece and parcel of immovable property being agricultural land bearing Survey No. 148/1, measuring 1 Acre 20 Guntas, situated at Karahalli Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and bounded on the; **East by :** Road and land in Survey No. 42/2; **West by :** Land in Survey Nos. 39/1 and 39/2; **North by :** Land in Survey Nos. 147/1 and 147/2; and **South by :** Land in Survey No. 148/2.

Place : Bengaluru **Date:** August 07th, 2025

Sd/- A. Supreeth, Partner, **CrestLaw Partners,** Advocates,
No. 33, Xavier Layout, 1st Cross, Victoria Road, Bengaluru – 560 047
Ph: 080 41473535 / 080 41473536

BANGALORE MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY

No.5, 2nd Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No:BMICAPA/CLU-01/40/2025-26/711 Date: 05.08.2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

[UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961]

Sri B.R.Ravichandiran S/o Late M.Rajamanikyam has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Residential" Zone to "Commercial"** purpose pertaining to **Sy.No:106** extent of **01Acre** of Thotadaguddadahalli Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid land is reserved for **Residential zone** in approved Master plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

1) By developing the Commercial development in the above said lands, the poor and middle class people will get shops at reasonable price and Job opportunities.
2) During the development works there will be employment opportunity for labourers.
3) Surrounding areas will be developed by developing the Commercial development in the above said land.
4) By the development of Commercial areas the Government will get the revenue in the form of various taxes.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/- Member Secretary,
BMICAPA, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/JA/2230/2025-26

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: B-SG-Pro-Auto-LOGH-HSRA Dated: 31.07.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Provision of Automatic signalling system in Lotegollahalli Hosur Section of Bengaluru Division.	Rs. 61,18,86,228.07

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 18.09.2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Dy. Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Projects/Bengaluru
PUB/363/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: B-SG-Proj-WFD-JTJ-Auto Dated: 31.07.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Provision of Automatic signalling system in Whitefield - Jolarpettai Section of Bengaluru Division.	Rs. 111,49,84,831.37

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 18.09.2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Dy. Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Projects/Bengaluru
PUB/364/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
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PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public hereby notified that my client **Mr. Vijay Kumar Reddy B.S Son of Mr. Sreenivasa Reddy B.V,** residing at No.343/2, 10TH Main, 100 feet Road, Dodda Banasawadi, Kalyananagar, Bangalore-560 043, is the absolute owner and is in peaceful possession and enjoyment of the Property mentioned below in the Schedule. He has lost/misplaced the Original Gift Deed dated Deed dated 25-10-2017 document No. HLS-1-03339-2017-18 CD No.HLSD152, registered in the office of the SRO Halasuru and Cancellation of Gift Deed dated 20-03-2019 document No.HLS-1-06776-2018-19 CD No.HLSD221, registered in the office of the SRO Halasuru, Bangalore pertaining to the Schedule Property. In this connection, an E-Complaint has also been lodged on 05-08-2025 vide Lost Report No. 1738120/2025. I hereby call upon the General public if anyone is in custody or possession of the same or otherwise found the above said document, kindly handover to undersigned immediately/within **7 days** and they may be suitably awarded and also I further bring into the notice of the general public that in case anyone dealing with the Schedule Property on the basis of the above said original document, it shall not be binding on my client and the same will be an offence and they are liable to punish under the Criminal and Civil Law.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All That piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing **New Municipal No.11, 100 feet Road, H.R.B.R. Layout, Banasawadi, Bangalore-560 043,** now comes under the jurisdiction of the BBMP, Bangalore, and BBMP allotted PID No.88-134-11, and New PID No.027-W0192-3, measuring East to West- **50-0" feet** and North to South **57'-0" feet**, in all totally measuring **2850 Sq. feet.** Together with ground floor building with RCC Roofed, Vitrified tiles flooring, jungle wood used with all civic amenities and bounded on the:

East by : Private Property, West by : Road, North by : Property belongs to Sri. Hari Babu.K., South by : Property No.343/3.

KRISHNAMURTHY. P, Advocate
No.11, 1st Floor, "MEERA NIVAS"
Opp: Sai Baba Temple, North Park Road,
Seshadripuram, Bangalore-560 020.
Mob: 9740718436
email : tilak.raghavendra@gmail.com

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO),
LIQUID PROPULSION SYSTEMS CENTRE (LPSC)
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE DIVISION,

80 Ft. Road, HAL II Stage, Bengaluru. Ph No: 080-25037203/080-25037214.

Date: 06.08.2025

e-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, Item rate tenders are invited for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of work and NIT No. & Date	Estimated Amount	EMD	Period of Completion
1	Renovation of 1st Floor Admin Building at LPSC(B), Bengaluru - Electrical works. NIT No.: LPSC(B)/CMD/02/2030/E/MI/017/2025-26 Dated: 06.08.2025	₹ 15.43 Lakhs	₹ 30,860/-	02 Months
2	Providing reception area in ITPF building at LPSC(B) Campus, Tumakuru NIT No.: LPSC(B)/CMD/02/2031/C/MI/018/2025-26 Dated: 06.08.2025	₹ 14.77 Lakhs	₹ 29,540/-	03 Months

Sale Period: From 06.08.2025 to 12.08.2025

Interested tenderers may please refer **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.** Also detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website **www.isro.gov.in, www.lpsc.gov.in**

Sd/- Head CMD, LPSC (B)

CBIC TUMAKURU INDUSTRIAL TOWNSHIP LTD

(A Joint Venture of Govt of India & Govt of Karnataka)
(CIN : U74999KA2018PLC118247)
Reg. Office: No.49, 5th Floor, 'East Wing', Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560 001. Phone: 91-80-22267383, email: mdcbic24@gmail.com

No. CBIC-TITL/ENGG/ETND-EP-02/653/2025-26 Date: 06.08.2025

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the work of :

Name of the Work : Shifting of existing 66kV Antharasanahalli-Sira Transmission DC line and 66kV Tap Line to existing 66kV Thovinakere sub-station passing over the premises of Chennai Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC) near Vasanthanarasapura Industrial Area, Tumakuru Taluk & District (2nd Call).

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **21.08.2025** upto **4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, CBIC-TITL

DIPR/CP/2234/NR/2025-26

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KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Bids on electronic mode for the following works .

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

No:CGM(Tech)/DGM(PROC &APCC)/EE-(Proc-3)/AEE-5/2025-26/1637-657 Date:05-08-2025

Enquiry Number / Name of the Work
1. KPTCL/2025-26/TL/WORK_INDENT2445
Reconstruction of 110 KV Shahabad – B Bagewadi DC Line, using DC Towers and Lynx Conductor for a distance of 59.885kms in the existing corridor from 220/110/11Kv Shahabad S/s to 110/11Kv Moratagi S/s in Kalaburagi district, on **Total Turnkey Basis,** including Supply of all matching Materials/Equipment's and Erection (including Civil Works) of all Materials/Equipment's, Testing and Commissioning and Buy back of released materials from existing lines. Availability of bid documents in KPP Portal: on or after **07.08.2025 @ 15:30hrs.** Last date & time for receipt of Bids is **06.09.2025 @ 15:00 hrs.**

BRIEF SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

No:CGM(Tech)/DGM(APCC&PROC)/EE-4/AE-1/2025-26/1681-698 Date:06-08-2025

Enquiry Number / Name of the Work
2. KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT2472
"Augmentation of 2x100MVA, 220/66/11kV power transformers by 2x150MVA, 220/66/11 kV power transformers at 220/66/11kV SRS Davanagere in Davanagere taluk & district on **Total Turnkey basis** including Supply of all Materials/ equipments, Mandatory Spares, Erection (Including dismantling and Civil Works) of all materials/equipments, Testing and Commissioning.." Availability of bid documents in KPP Portal: on or after **07.08.2025.** Last date & time for receipt of Bids is **21.08.2025 @ 15:00 hrs.**

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the E-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Any details required in this regard can also be had from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.
All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.

Sd/- Chief General Manager(Tech),
Corporate Office, 2nd Floor, KPTCL, Kaveri Bhavan,
Bengaluru-560009. Ph:080-22243926

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I, CLENCY D Almeida, D/o Ignatius D Almeida, R/a No.149/1, New No.10, James Street, Kammanahalli, St.Thomas Town Post, Bangalore-560084 have changed my name from Clency D Almeide to Clency D Almeida for all future purpose vide affidavit dt: 05.08.2025 sworn before Notary L.Gopalakrishna, B'lore

WE, MOHAMMED Aleem Ahmed and Farzana Banu parents of Khansa residing at 3, G-03, Tuscan Royal Manor, Opp. Hennur Bus Depot, Hennur Main Road, Banaswadi, Bengaluru -560043 have changed the name of our minor daughter to Khansa Ahmed vide Affidavit dated 06-08-2025 before Gangaraju.B.N, Notary, Bengaluru.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 1ST ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGE Tirunelveli
MACOP. No.30/2024
Gowriyamma & Others
...Petitioners
Vs
K.Thangaraj, S/o.A.Kunnudaiyan No.10, SSS Building, AV Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore-560018.
...1st Respondent

NOTICE

Please take notice that the 1st Petitioner in the above case has filed claim application on account of death of her husband in a vehicular accident held on 27-09-2023 at Tuticorin-Tirunelveli NH Road, Near Vallanadu, Firing Station. The above case is posted on 28-08-2025 for appearance of the 1st respondent before this Hon'bleCourt on 10.00 A.M. failing which the court will decide the 1st respondent as "Called Exparte" in this case.

-As per Court Order-
By Advocate
A.Selvaraj, B.Sc., B.L.,
Tuticorin.
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Sleeping disasters

Governments must monitor silt accumulation at vulnerable points

The disaster in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand serves as a reminder of the permanent risk of destabilisation in the Himalayas. At least four persons were killed and at least 60 people are feared washed away after a mass of water, debris and muck triggered by torrential rain hit the Kheer Ganga river on Tuesday afternoon. The flood hit hotels and residential buildings in Dharali town, situated 8,600 feet above sea level, where video footage recorded by residents showed giant waves of water gushing through the area, engulfing people and homes. Several Indian Army personnel are also feared dead, according to preliminary reports.

The proximate cause of the disaster is the extremely heavy rainfall from August 3 to 5, with some parts of the district reporting nearly 30 cm of rainfall over a single day due to the monsoon and its active phase over North India. The fury and the volume of the water that gushed through the town seemed to suggest that this was a sudden event, prompting State officials to categorise it as a 'cloudburst'. However, this has a very specific meaning in how the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the official forecaster, defines it. A large volume of rain, of at least 10 centimetres in an hour over 10 square kilometres, is what usually qualifies as a cloudburst. The lack of weather radars at those altitudes means that the IMD is incapable of such a computation. Therefore, it could very well be that continuous heavy rain over the past 48 hours may have loosened the soil and combined with the craggy, undulating terrain, unleashed large volumes of silt along with copious amounts of water. Whether it was a sudden event or the result of a gradual build-up might seem only of academic interest, given the loss of life, livelihood and property. The knee-jerk categorisation as a 'cloudburst' allows state authorities to claim helplessness. Once it is projected as a freak phenomenon, the event only elicits social media commiseration from public authorities in the form of 'prayers' and 'deep sadness' and a pre-defined token sum as disbursement. The recent past shows that these are anything but outliers. Climate change has increased the probability of extreme rainfall events and, therefore, the numerous infrastructure projects undertaken in the hills and the resulting debris act as latent explosives that are triggered from such rainfall. Following relief operations, the State government must – as soon as conditions are conducive – review debris and silt accumulation at critical points in the State to buffer the inevitable damage from climate change.

Judicial overreach

The Supreme Court's remarks on Rahul Gandhi threaten democratic dissent

The Supreme Court of India's recent handling of defamation charges against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi marks a troubling shift from established norms of free speech and jurisprudence on constitutional protections for political discourse. This became clear when the Bench led by Justice Dipankar Datta, while staying the proceedings on Mr. Gandhi's remarks on the Galwan clash in 2020, made problematic oral observations. Among others, Justice Datta said that had Mr. Gandhi been a "true Indian", he would not have said what he did. The Court's primary function is to adjudicate on questions of law and constitutional principle rather than to prescribe standards of national loyalty. In a democracy, surely a 'true Indian' is one who fearlessly pursues the truth and holds the government accountable – not one who accepts official narratives without question. Mr. Gandhi's commentary, in which he questioned the government's border policies and drew attention to credible reports of Chinese intrusions, also fell well within the legitimate ambit of Opposition politics. This critiquing does not, and must not be seen to, undermine the nation. Such criticism is protected by the principles of free speech and is indispensable for a healthy public discourse. The Court's remarks, by implying otherwise, risk chilling legitimate dissent and setting an inimical precedent for future Opposition conduct.

Equally, Mr. Gandhi's statements regarding Chinese occupation of Indian territory and confrontations are not without backing in public and governmental sources. Open-source satellite imagery, parliamentary discussions, and journalistic reports have documented the aftermath of the Galwan Valley clash, including new Chinese activities along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). A parliamentary committee report has acknowledged the loss of access to certain patrol points in eastern Ladakh. Military officials and independent analysts have corroborated, at various times, the ongoing disputes and loss of patrolling rights over substantial stretches of territory, including parts of Ladakh's Galwan and Depsang areas. Local residents are also unable to access grazing lands. The loss of about 2,000 square kilometres, cited by Mr. Gandhi, is also based on estimates by independent defence experts studying China's LAC transgressions. The general thrust of Mr. Gandhi's remarks – i.e., China has altered the status quo to India's disadvantage and that the government's public statements have not always aligned with ground realities – is supported by public evidence. Thus, the Court must resist the temptation to offer moral or patriotic judgments and instead direct its considerable energies to the rigorous and impartial adjudication of legal questions. Only by adhering to this principle can the Court reinforce its legitimacy and protect the tenets of free and open public debate.

Decoding China — the lessons for a vulnerable India

Shashi Tharoor

is a former Under-Secretary General of the United Nations, a fourth-term Member of Parliament (Congress), Lok Sabha, for Thiruvananthapuram, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs, and the Sahitya Akademi Award-winning author of 27 books, including 'Pax Indica: India and the World of the 21st Century' (2012)

The exodus of over 300 Chinese engineers from Foxconn's pivotal iPhone 17 manufacturing facilities in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka – a recent move ostensibly executed under corporate directive – is far more than an administrative recalibration. It is a meticulously calibrated stratagem, designed to arrest India's burgeoning manufacturing ambitions and to perpetuate a "unipolar Asia" under Beijing's overarching economic hegemony.

A geo-economic move

This calculated withdrawal is not simply a logistical reshuffling. It is a subtle, yet potent, geo-economic manoeuvre by a rival apprehensive of a rising India. The recall of these highly specialised technicians, possessed of invaluable expertise in establishing sophisticated production lines, optimising operational efficiencies, and troubleshooting the labyrinthine complexities of modern manufacturing, represents a deliberate impediment to the crucial transfer of technology. Such knowledge is the bedrock upon which India seeks to construct its edifice of advanced electronics manufacturing, and its withholding strikes at the very heart of India's aspirational ascent.

In addition, China has leveraged its dominance in rare earth production and processing by restricting exports of rare earths (which include elements such as gallium, germanium, graphite), and rare earth magnets, which are crucial for electric vehicles and electronics, to India. China has also imposed curbs on the export of other critical minerals that are vital for various high-tech industries. There have also been informal trade restrictions on the export of capital equipment from China to India, including high-end manufacturing equipment for electronics assembly and other sectors, heavy-duty boring machines and solar equipment, severely impacting India's ability to set up and expand its own manufacturing facilities.

The broader implication of these actions, particularly the recall of engineers and restrictions on specialised equipment, is a deliberate attempt to limit the transfer of advanced manufacturing technology and know-how to India. This aims to keep India dependent on Chinese inputs and prevent it from developing a truly self-reliant high-value manufacturing base. Crucially, many of these restrictions are not formalised bans but are implemented through verbal instructions and administrative delays. This makes them harder to directly challenge but equally effective in disrupting supply chains, increasing costs, and creating uncertainty for Indian manufacturers.

In essence, China's strategy is multi-pronged, leveraging its control over crucial raw materials, manufacturing equipment, and even human capital to impede India's manufacturing ascent, especially in the high-stakes electronics and emerging technology sectors. These actions, when viewed through the prism of Beijing's anxieties concerning India's emergence as a potentially formidable manufacturing competitor in an era of "friend-shoring" by the West, align perfectly with its broader strategic calculus. China's economic success is increasingly predicated upon maintaining robust export revenues.

> China's determined moves to target India are part of a meticulously calibrated plan to safeguard its core economic interests and its internal stability

Consequently, any nation daring to challenge its pre-eminence in global manufacturing, particularly in high-value sectors such as electronics, is inevitably perceived not merely as a competitor but also as an existential threat. The withdrawal of these engineers, therefore, constitutes a potent stratagem to disrupt India's trajectory and safeguard China's long-entrenched export market share and economic primacy in the region and beyond. India's ambition to transform itself into a globally competitive manufacturing hub is seen in Beijing as a direct challenge to China's long-term stability.

The reality in China

Consider the demographic exigencies currently confronting China: an ageing and progressively shrinking populace, an unfortunate legacy of the protracted one-child policy, coupled with a palpable erosion of wealth occasioned by an enduring property crisis – even as local satraps exceed production targets in their zeal to impress Beijing. This widening structural imbalance between an excessive production capacity and faltering domestic consumption increasingly compels China to lean heavily on export revenues to underwrite its fiscal outlays and maintain a semblance of economic progress. As its social welfare and pension liabilities burgeon exponentially, the Chinese government finds itself under mounting fiscal duress. Any reduction of export revenues would directly impinge upon Beijing's capacity to fund critical domains such as domestic security and military expenditure, potentially precipitating an undesirable degree of social instability.

China's formidable trade surplus, now on the cusp of a trillion dollars, is not solely a testament to its industrial prowess but also a stark manifestation of weak internal consumption and persistent industrial overcapacity. The People's Bank of China's repeated interest rate reductions on savings accounts have largely failed to ignite internal demand. This chronic overcapacity, therefore, constrains Chinese enterprises to aggressively depress prices and inundate international markets in a desperate bid to remain solvent – a strategy that has, perhaps ironically, severely eroded profitability across a plethora of sectors. As a result, China's determined endeavours to stymie competition are not merely a reflection of simple geopolitical rivalry. Rather, they are an undeniable reflection of profound domestic compulsions. Should India, by dint of astute policy and diligent execution, succeed in getting its house in order and convincingly demonstrate the potential to compete comprehensively in the global manufacturing landscape, Beijing is highly likely to escalate its countermeasures. These could range from the insidious pressures of economic coercion to outright military posturing, all in a relentless quest to safeguard its core economic interests and, by extension, its internal stability.

However, the news of the U.S. raising India's tariffs to 50%, even while China enjoys a 90-day exemption from punitive tariffs despite buying more Russian oil and gas than India does, makes India less of a threat to China. While India has been seen as a key partner in western efforts to diversify supply chains away from China, the imposition of the new U.S. tariffs serves as a reminder that all alignments carry their own fragilities, and underscores the need for India to build true strategic autonomy. The Indian Prime Minister's forthcoming visit to Beijing comes against this complex backdrop.

An appraisal of India's strengths, shadows

China's industrial pre-eminence is not fortuitous or trivial; it is a systemic dominance that spans critical and emerging sectors, from the esoteric realms of Artificial Intelligence and quantum computing to the cutting-edge frontiers of 6G telecommunications and electric vehicles. We need to understand that China does not merely export goods; it orchestrates and largely controls global supply chains in these advanced technologies. Even its overcapacity, otherwise a sign of economic infirmity, is being deftly weaponised as a strategic instrument for price suppression and audacious market capture. The aggressive pricing strategies employed by behemoths such as BYD in the electric vehicle segment are a quintessential illustration: by flooding global markets with irresistibly priced goods, China effectively stifles nascent competition and inexorably solidifies its global market share. This is economic statecraft in action.

In stark contrast, India's manufacturing ecosystem, despite its vibrant aspirations, remains undeniably nascent. The cherished dream of transforming into a global "manufacturing hub" frequently founders upon a litany of formidable hurdles, including persistent infrastructure lacunae and the pervasive sclerosis of bureaucratic red tape. We remain regrettably reliant on imports for a pantheon of crucial components – ranging from sophisticated chips and engines to semiconductors and sensors – even for the foundational "screwdriver technology" indispensable for basic assembly. This profound reliance on external sources underscores the considerable ground India must traverse to genuinely metamorphose into a self-sufficient manufacturing powerhouse. "Make in India" still needs help from outside India.

From Beijing's vantage point, China has nothing to worry about yet; its actions against India are an effort to neutralise potential "noise" within its immediate periphery while it assiduously scales up its economic and political corridors with key strategic partners across the sprawling geographies of Pakistan,the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Africa, and Latin America. India's narrative of offering an alternative to the Chinese behemoth falters on our own dependence. If India genuinely harbours the ambition to "compete" on the global stage, it needs a laser-like focus on its own foundational development. That is what China's behaviour has taught India: The onus is on us Indians.

Mumbai train blasts, an exoneration, the questions

Yashovardhan Azad

is a former IPS officer who has served as Central Information Commissioner, Secretary, Security, Government of India and Special Director, Intelligence Bureau

The Bombay High Court's exoneration of all those convicted in the Mumbai train blast case of July 2006, has come as a rude shock for the families of the 189 people killed and around 800 people who were injured. The High Court has ripped apart the investigation, calling witnesses untrustworthy, deeming confessions gained as under duress, terming identification parades faulty and citing forensic evidence custody as not foolproof. It is a shocker because it was based on the same evidence that the trial court, in 2015, sentenced five of the accused to death and seven to life imprisonment.

A long wait, lapses

Who will answer for the inordinately long incarceration of the accused since 2006? The police, the prosecution, lawyers or the courts? Or all of them, that is the criminal justice system? It takes years for trials in courts. One of the defence lawyers said that the charge sheet filed by the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) had 20,000 pages, while much lesser numbers would suffice. It is like schoolchildren taking their examinations and filling pages with answers, hoping to impress the teacher with volume rather than quality. But the nine years taken by the Special Court and 10 years by the High Court for their decisions make the waiting period so agonising to the point of being meaningless for the accused. Nineteen years is a lifetime and almost like a sentence itself.

Admitted there is tremendous pressure on investigating teams and the police chief in a terrorist or any high-profile case. The government gets unsettled with the Opposition's relentless attacks and demand to arrest the accused within minutes. It impacts investigation severely, pushing investigating officers into a corner, taking hasty decisions and bypassing protocol and procedures.

> The Bombay High Court's exoneration of all those convicted in the 2006 case is a reminder that every element in the criminal justice system needs to be reformed

But some of the issues referred to by the High Court raise concerns. Despite two confessions taken by two different deputy commissioners of police, they appear to be not similar but actually the same, with even the ellipsis matching. The witnesses became untrustworthy because, on cross-examination, they did not remain true to their original statements. Guess no one can after a lapse of so many years. It was surprising that the drawer of the sketches of the accused was not called as a witness.

The test identification parade became suspect because the special executive officer who conducted it was not authorised to do so. Strange, because the magistrate who conducted it should have known whether he was the right person to undertake the TIP.

The investigation, however, is truly flawed if the forensic evidence purity and chain of custody cannot be vouched for faithfully. It is troubling to hear that even in such critical cases there could be lapses on this count.

The use of RTI filings

Perhaps the biggest message from this trial is how the Right to Information (RTI) Act, known as the sunshine legislation, enacted 20 years ago, has stood the test of time, bringing transparency and accountability in government functioning. Hundreds of RTIs were filed by the accused and the defence lawyers to elicit information from the police, hospitals, and the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited to build up their case and cross-examine the prosecution witnesses and prove them wrong on various counts. In one instance, it was the name of a non-existent person in a hospital, named by the prosecution witness or the shift in which one person was working was proven wrong. It is the noblest use of RTI, perhaps, if it is used to defend oneself. This is a fundamental aspect of free trial and constitution under Article 20(3).

Perhaps most embarrassing for the Mumbai police would have been the discovery of an Indian Mujahideen (IM) module, busted by the crime branch Mumbai in 2008, which accepted its role in the series of blasts in Ahmedabad, Delhi and Jaipur between 2005 to 2008. The gang led by Sadiq Israr Sheikh also claimed responsibility for the series of blasts in suburban trains on that day in Mumbai at around 6.30 p.m. The charge sheet in the July 11, 2006 Mumbai train blast case had already been filed by then, and the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) had announced it as the handiwork of the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI).

In fact, in 2008, the top man of SIMI, Safdar Nagori, general secretary, was arrested along with his associates in March 2008 in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, and was awarded life term in 2017. But how does this make any sense to the families of the victims of 7/11 or to a common man? How does it matter whether the police, the prosecution or the criminal justice system failed him? What matters is that 19 years later, he has no closure. For the accused who were incarcerated for 19 years, it is already a sentence served without proven guilty. They seek justice too.

Reform must begin

There are too many questions unanswered. The only way to answer them is to put the criminal justice system on track on a war footing. Formatting a new criminal law by changing a few old laws here and there is not enough. Every element of the criminal justice system should be reformed. Nineteen years for a decision is meaningless because the punishment has already been given. A prosecution overlooking basic issues is meaningless and an investigation overlooking the simplest of things is not worth it. Reform of the police, the judiciary, the prosecution and prisons cannot wait – we are sitting on a time bomb of people's expectations and frustrations, which may explode anytime.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trump and tariffs

U.S. President Donald Trump appears to be punishing India for obtuse reasons. India, a democratic ally, has tariffs slapped on it while the West's trade with Russia continues quietly in the shadows. India has to consider seeking partners who show mutual respect. Ultimately, India should stop seeking validation and find ways now to protect its long-term interests.

Vaibhav Kochar,
Rajpura, Punjab

The fact is that this is an issue about India's right to energy security. Going forward, global energy discussions must move towards cooperation and transparency, especially during uncertain times.

Ardra Mani,
Pathanamthitta, Kerala

The way America is trying to pressure and crush India is most unjustified which is made worse with the WTO watching silently. One hopes that this is a temporary setback and that India will bounce back.

V.R. Ganesan,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Quranic justice is restorative, not retributive

A. Faizur Rahman

Secretary-General of the Chennai-based Islamic Forum for the Promotion of Moderate Thought

The case of the Malayali nurse Nimisha Priya in Yemen has spotlighted the legal and moral complexities of retributive justice in Muslim countries. Nimisha has been in prison since 2017 for the murder of her business associate, Talal Abdo Mahdi. While the Houthi Supreme Political Council dismissed her appeal in November 2023, the appeal court left open a path to clemency through the payment of blood money (*diyah*) to the victim's family, as provided for under Shariah law.

The concept of *diyah* finds mention in verse 4:92 of the Quran, which states that in cases when a believer kills another believer by mistake (*khata'an*), then, as compensation, the killer must free a believing slave, and also pay blood-money (*diyah*) to the family of the slain. The Quran also talks about legal retribution (*qisaas*) for murder and violent assault as a life-preserving deterrent (*lakum fil qisaasi hayaatun*) to curb criminal behaviour. (2:178-179 & 194, 5:45)

Restorative approach

It is essential to recognise that many of the Quranic injunctions concerning homicide and bodily harm were not retributive – they were fundamentally restorative.

Legal retribution (*lex talionis*) and compensation for murder and bodily harm had existed centuries before the advent of Islam. The Book of Exodus in the Hebrew Bible upheld capital punishment for intentional murder, exile for unintentional homicide, and either financial compensation or retaliatory injury for physical harm (Exodus 21:12-36).

Similar provisions are found in even earlier laws, such as the Sumerian and Babylonian codes. In *Law Collections from Mesopotamia and Asia Minor*, Martha Roth cites an edict from the Hittite Kingdom (1650-1180 BCE), which stipulates that in cases of murder, the decision regarding the offender's fate rested solely with the victim's heir.

It is essential to recognise that many of the Quranic injunctions concerning homicide and bodily harm were not retributive – they were fundamentally restorative

The Quran made a reformative switch from this sort of retributive punishment to restorative justice, inviting all those impacted by an offence to jointly determine how best to address its consequences and shape future relations. In 2:178, it asked the legal heirs of the victim to pardon (*faman ufiya lahu*) the killer, even while instructing the killer to offer fair compensation to the family out of sincere gratitude.

The same message is repeated in 5:45 with a compassionate appeal to the victim's family: "If anyone remits the retaliation by way of generosity, it would be an act of atonement (*kaffaara*) for him."

What is remarkable about this exhortation is its paradigm shift from retribution to the spiritual healing of the aggrieved party. It introduces a mechanism that not only fosters genuine remorse in the offender but also promotes social harmony and quiet dignity among all parties involved.

This is in keeping with the Quran's moral dictum (in 64:14) that God is forgiving and merciful to those who "pardon, overlook and forgive" (*in ta'fu wa tasfahu was taghfiru*). The prophet echoed this in a hadith found in Abu Dawud, encouraging Muslims to practice mercy on 'earth' so that mercy may be shown to them from 'the heavens'.

Implications for Nimisha

It may be noted that the Quran's appeal to give up retaliation pertains to intentional murder.

For non-premeditated killing without malice aforethought (*qatl khata'*), the Quran prescribes only blood money, not a retaliatory death penalty, as stated in 4:92 above.

This carries serious implications for Nimisha. If, as reported, she did not sedate Mahdi with the intent to kill him – and this can be proven – then, under the Quranic injunctions in 4:92, his family would not have the right to demand the death penalty.

Media reports suggest that Nimisha administered the sedative only to retrieve her passport, which Mahdi had allegedly confiscated unlawfully, and that his death was the result of an accidental overdose. Besides, if Mahdi had previously served time for criminal offences, as alleged, the claim of his complete innocence is open to challenge.

Therefore, for justice to be served in Nimisha's case, the Quranic law must prevail. However, what reigns in most Muslim societies in its name is sectarian jurisprudence, which views Islam not as a moral order in which justice and rational logic are intrinsic, but a dogmatic 'religion' defined and dominated by male authority.

This internal subversion coincided with the rise of post-Prophetic schools of religious thought during the height of Muslim imperial expansion, when a convenient alliance developed between theologians and the ruling elite: rulers sought religious legitimacy for their authoritarian regimes, while theologians wanted the latitude to impose patriarchal structures.

It was the consolidation of this power dynamic that brought about Islam's shift from Quranic *deen* – a rational, justice-oriented ethical framework – to *mazhab* - a rigid, clerically dominated theology. Consequently, Islam ceased to be what is plainly stated in the Arabic text of the Quran and the Prophetic understanding of it.

This structural transformation remains one of the most significant and unresolved crises in Muslim history, reshaping the course of Islamic thought. Nowhere is this more evident than in criminal law, which often paints Islam as a harsh faith.

If Muslim theologians truly believe in the Quran's opening statement that the Islamic god is "most Gracious" (*Al-Rahman*) and "most Merciful" (*Al-Raheem*), then they must allow the merciful *deen* of Islam to prevail over their rigid juristic schools.

Rewriting the rules of school in A.P.

TDP government reworks school reforms, aiming for better access

STATE OF PLAY

P. Sujatha Varma
pothuri.varma@thehindu.co.in

The Telugu Desam Party-led NDA government in Andhra Pradesh is revisiting the education sector reforms introduced by its predecessor and is making changes wherever deemed necessary. Minister for Human Resources Development Nara Lokesh has stated that policies yielding positive outcomes will be retained, while those that failed to deliver tangible results will be rolled back. The task being both critical and challenging, the Minister is taking an objective and balanced view of the educational landscape, recognising that the well-being and future of students must remain at the heart of the new initiatives.

Officials in the education department are assessing what has worked, what needs improvement, and how best to move forward without causing inconvenience to stakeholders. The task at hand is to cater to the needs of 58,535 schools, 68,15,925 students, and 3,13,112 teachers across the State. Of these, 44,285 are government schools with 33,37,762 students and 1,84,898 teachers; 789 are aided schools with 87,612 students and 3,259 teachers; 13,461 private schools with 33,90,551 students and 1,24,955 teachers.

According to Mr. Lokesh, the TDP government inherited an education system in a state of paralysis, lacking essential frameworks and operational efficiency – a charge refuted by the YSR Congress Party, which has accused him of "systematically weakening the education sector in the State."

The data show that the State has 12,512 single-teacher schools, 5,312 government schools with single-digit enrolment, and 14,052 State-run schools with 20 or fewer students. The overall enrolment in government schools declined by 10,49,596 students between 2022 and 2024.

With declining learning outcomes, the government faces the formidable challenge of reversing the trend to secure children's futures. A recent survey suggested that 84.3% of Class III students could not read a Class-II level text, 62.5 % of Class V students struggled with basic reading, 47% of Class VIII students still could not read Class II level text, 59.1 % of Class III students could not perform basic subtraction, 54.8 % of Class VI-II students could not perform division and only 12.9% and of Class III students could solve basic division problems.

One of the most controversial decisions of the previous YSRCP government was GO 117, which reorganised schools and reapportioned teaching staff. The order divided schools into six categories and mandated the merger and demerger of classes. The fragmentation of schools led to the number of schools having fewer than 10 students rising from 1,215 in 2021-22 to 5,312 in 2024-25, and schools with fewer than or equal to 20 students increasing from 5,520 to 14,052 during the same period, indicating a severe decline in student enrolment.

To curb the ill effects of GO 117, the NDA government introduced GO 21, which revises the restructuring model by creating nine categories of schools. However, this faced trouble, with teacher unions raising serious concerns over its "negative impact on the public education system". GO 21 is part of the transformative journey called Learning Excellence in Andhra Pradesh, which aims to improve access, learning outcomes, and future-ready skills.

The recently concluded 'Mega' DSC (District Selection Committee) exam, conducted to recruit 16,347 teachers in government schools after a gap of seven years, enhanced the government's image. Other welcomed steps include the introduction of academic star ratings to assess both student and teacher performance, targeted efforts to boost school enrolment in rural and tribal areas, and the consolidation of multiple teacher apps into a single platform.

In intermediate education, curriculum and textbook revisions for first-year students are being implemented from the current academic year, aligning with the syllabus with national competitive standards. The revisions would be introduced for second-year students from the academic year 2026-27.

The reach of the changes being made is very vast, and resistance to change is natural in large systems, especially when previous reforms are still being digested. The government should remain watchful of implementation gaps that often emerge. Due diligence is key to ensuring that the quality of learning improves without sacrificing stability.

More women than men deleted from Bihar's electoral rolls

It is concerning that more women have been deleted from the rolls, given that men out-migrate more from the State

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy
Srinivasan Ramani
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

An analysis of Bihar's draft electoral rolls released on August 1, prepared after the completion of the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise, shows that more women than men have been deleted from the rolls.

A total of 3.82 crore male electors are part of the latest electoral rolls – about 25 lakh male electors fewer than the rolls prepared in January this year. A total of 3.41 crore female electors are part of the latest electoral rolls – about 31 lakh female electors fewer than the rolls prepared in January. **Chart 1** shows the gender-wise number of electors in the January and August rolls.

In fact, in 37 out of Bihar's 38 districts, more women electors have been deleted from the rolls than men. In Gopalganj, the number of women electors fell from over 10 lakh in January to about 8.21 lakh in August – a 17.8% decline. In comparison, male electors in Gopalganj declined from over 10.37 lakh to 9.23 lakh – a drop of 11%. This means that deletions among women were 6.8 percentage points more than those among men (17.8% minus 11%) in the Gopalganj rolls. This was the highest among all districts. **Map 2** depicts the district-wise gender-gap in deletion rates.

The gender-divide in deletions raises many concerning questions. According to the Election Commission, the electors who are not part of the August list have either died, or are registered in multiple locations, or have permanently migrated out of Bihar, or are untraceable.

Death rates between men and women are generally similar. **Chart 3** shows male and female death rates in Bihar over the past five years. Except during the pandemic – when male death rates briefly spiked above those for women – the trend has largely remained nearly equal. The number of deletions due to duplicate entries or untraceable addresses is likely to be relatively smaller.

This leaves one other major factor: out-migration from Bihar. Both anecdotal evidence and data suggest that when it comes to migrating out, men vastly outnumber women. **Chart 4** shows that, in 2020-21, for every 100 male migrants in India, 31.4 had migrated from another State and 65.6 within the same State. In contrast, among 100 female migrants, only 7.2 had migrated from another State, while 92.6 moved within their home State. This pattern holds true for Bihar as well and perhaps it is even more stark for men from the State.

If men outnumber women in out-migration by this huge a margin, then why did more women get deleted than men in the post-SIR rolls? Given that deaths, the other major factor, cannot explain such a variance. A plausible explanation is a gender gap in the submission of enumeration forms during the SIR exercise. As of 2019-21, only 55% of women in Bihar were estimated to be literate – the lowest female literacy rate in the country – compared to over 76% among men. Could such low literacy levels have hindered women from properly filling out and submitting the forms?

In yesterday's Data Point, we found that more deletions occurred in districts where more women than men turned out to vote in absolute numbers, even though there were more registered male electors. We had suggested that these districts had higher out-migration of men. But deletions have been more among women. This suggests that the method of self-enumeration could have affected women, among whom there is a lower literacy rate, leading to their higher deletion rates.

More analysis of the SIR exercise will follow in these columns.

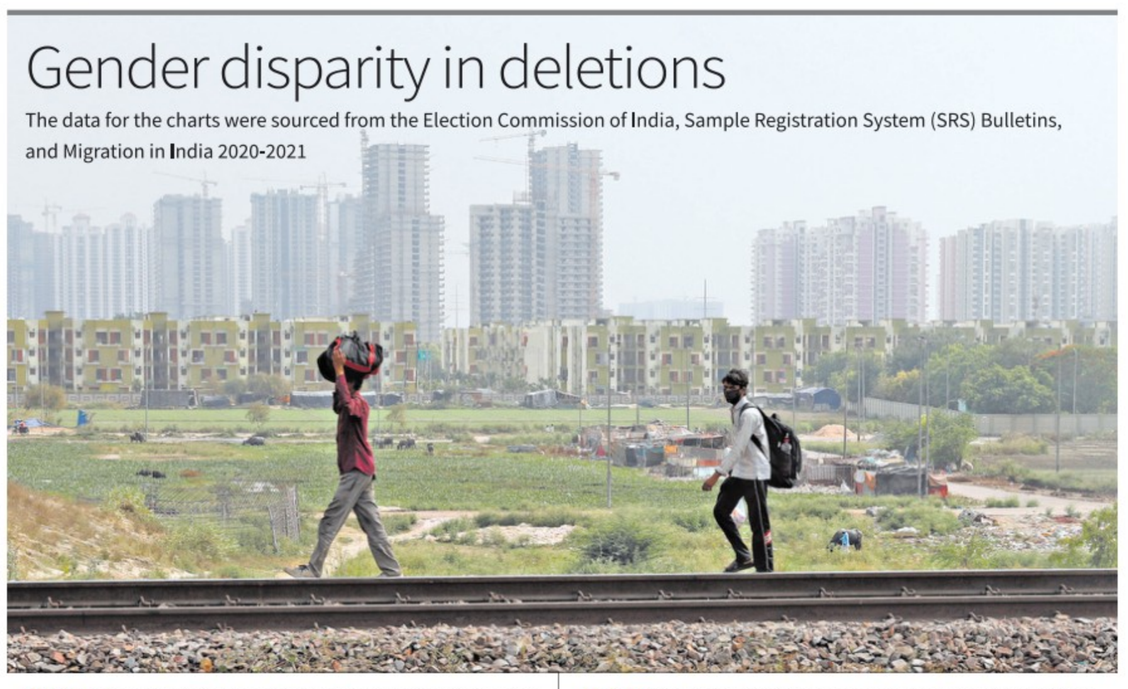
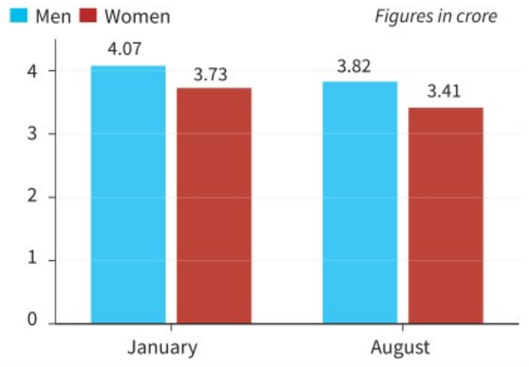


Chart 1: The gender-wise number of electors in the January 2025 (before SIR) and August 2025 (post SIR) rolls in Bihar



Map 2: The district-wise gender-gap (male minus female) in deletion rates in the latest rolls, compared to January rolls

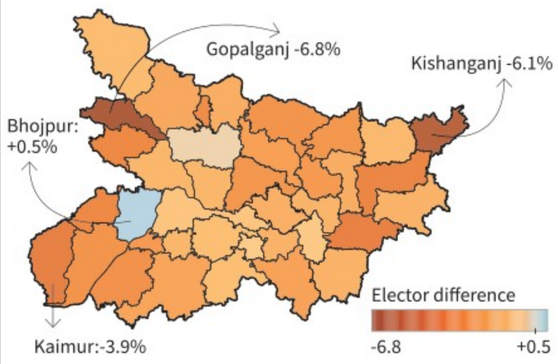


Chart 3: Male and female death rates in Bihar over the past five years. Death rate is defined as the number of deaths per thousand population in a given region and time period

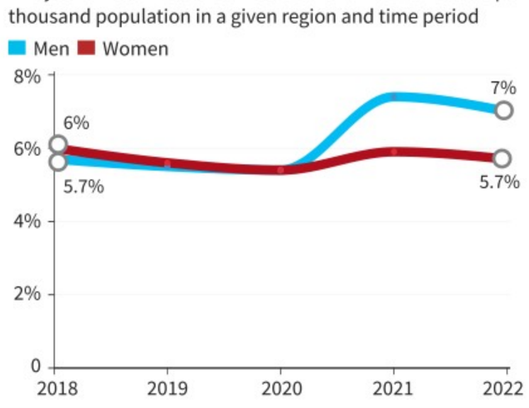
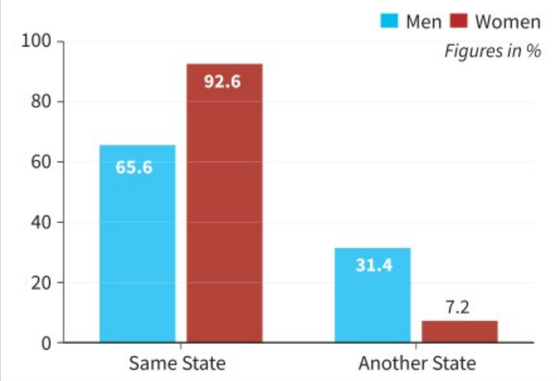


Chart 4: Percentage distribution of migrants by location of their last usual place of residence being the "same State" or from "another State" as recorded in PLFS 2020-21



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 7, 1975

Hitch delays flight of plane with Gunmen

Kuala Lumpur, August 6: Five terrorists who held 52 hostages in the U.S. Consulate for two days boarded a plane at Kuala Lumpur airport to-day and officials said they would leave for Libya at 8 a.m. local time (6 a.m. IST) to-morrow.

The five still held 15 of their hostages aboard the plane, including the U.S. Consul, Mr. R. Stebbins and the Swedish Charge d' Affaires Mr. Bergenstrahle.

Officials said they were to be released in exchange for two Malaysian and two Japanese Government officials who would accompany the terrorists to Libya as substitute hostages.

The two Malaysians were named as Mr. Ramli Omar, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Mr. Osman Cassim, Secretary-General of the Home Ministry.

According to American officials here, the Libyan Government had agreed to accept the guerillas.

Meanwhile, the five Japanese radicals who were released from Japanese prisons and flown to Kuala Lumpur as demanded by the terrorists, were waiting in an airport building to board the plane for the flight. After exhausting negotiations, the gunmen agreed this morning to leave the American International Assurance building which houses the U.S. and other embassies in downtown Kuala Lumpur and join their five comrades at the airport. Masked, wearing gloves and carrying automatic revolvers and hand grenades, they marched their 15 hostages along with them and made the 22 km drive to the airport in a large bus.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 7, 1925

Spinning and weaving mills still remain closed

The Anglo-French Textile Mill Co. Ltd., which suspended operations on the 11th of July and the Pondicherry cotton mills which closed its doors on the 1st of July still continue to remain closed. As per notice put up at the gates of the Anglo-French Textile Mills the labourers were paid their fortnightly wages at the rate of Rs. 10 per month. Whether the authorities will continue to do the same after the 11th instant or not remains yet to be seen.

From Page One

Trump raises tariff on Indian imports to 50%

"We have already made clear our position on these issues, including the fact that our imports are based on market factors and done with the overall objective of ensuring the energy security of 1.4 billion people of India," the MEA statement said on Wednesday. "It is therefore extremely unfortunate that the U.S. should choose to impose additional tariffs on India for actions that several other countries are also taking in their own national interest."

This latest escalation by Mr. Trump is a "severe setback" for Indian exports, said S.C. Ralhan, president of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO).

Negotiators from the U.S. and India are currently engaged in finalising the first tranche of a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) by fall of this year.

SC seeks EC's reply on Bihar rolls omissions

"The list with names of 65 lakh deleted electors curiously fails to disclose the reason for the non-submission of their enumeration forms, an information that the Election Commission evidently possesses. In other words, it fails to provide any explanation as to why these names were not included in the draft electoral rolls whether for reason of having been deceased, permanently migrated out of Bihar, being untraceable or on the ground of duplicate entry." Mr. Bhushan, for NGO Association for Democratic Reforms, argued.

"The EC's concealment of reason for deletion seems to be an attempt to obviate the public from ascertaining whether or not electors whose names figure in the list, are indeed dead or permanently migrated. It is to be noted that as per the EC, those whose names do not figure in the draft roll stand do not enjoy the right to routine legal remedies (notice, personal hearing and appeals) available under Section 21A of the Registration of Voters Rules," the application said.

SC rejects AIADMK MP's plea on scheme names

Mr. Shanmugam's side, represented by senior advocate Maninder Singh and advocate Balaji Srinivasan, challenged the implementation and publicity of '*Ungaludan* Stalin' (With You, Stalin), an outreach programme notified on June 19. Mr. Shanmugham had urged the High Court to direct the Election Commission to take action against the DMK under Paragraph 16A of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order of 1968. It had also wanted the Content Regulation Committee on Government Advertising (CCRGA) to interdict the Tamil Nadu government from using the name 'Stalin' in the programme.

The Supreme Court did not agree with both submissions. It questioned why the petitioner had focussed on one particular political party, DMK, and not challenged the actions of other political outfits using their leaders' names to brand programmes.

'Petrol lobbies behind E20 fuel fear campaign'

"From an economic point of view, the country spends ₹22 lakh crore on fossil fuel imports and the automotive industry is growing and imports are too. There are also concerns over rising levels of pollution. Thirdly, our push for alternative fuels and bio fuels places the country on the path to *Atmanirbharta* [self-reliance]."

'No vested interest'

Allegations have also been made on social media about the Minister's "vested interest" in promoting ethanol blending because of his family's ownership of sugarcane companies such as the Purti Group.

"This is a deliberate misinformation campaign. We have identified an organisation that is dialing phones and talking to people [to write posts on X]. It is possible that this is a political conspiracy. It is common in politics," Mr. Gadkari said emphatically. "Vajpayee *ji* started ethanol blending in 2001. Did he do it at my behest?" he asked.

He said that his family-owned companies are running at an annual loss of ₹30 crore, claiming that despite advice to shut them down, he continues to remain invested because of his passion. These firms only generate a mere 1.3 lakh litres of ethanol, which is too small a quantity, he said.

"If I promote electric or hydrogen or flex engine car, does it mean I manufacture those? I promote various alternative and biofuels so that import and pollution goes down, farmers don't commit suicide, and we fulfil the dream of the Prime Minister, of *atmanirbharta* [self reliance]," Mr. Gadkari said. "When we used corn to produce ethanol, its market price rose from ₹1,200 to ₹2,600..., and farmers also benefitted from the higher value."

On whether vehicle owners could choose between E20 and E5 – as in the case of Brazil, the Minister said that India was still at a nascent stage of its transition to biofuels unlike Brazil, which has over 80 years of experience. It will take another seven to eight years for stability, he said.

Doval to visit Moscow, as Trump imposes additional tariffs on India

The National Security Adviser's visit is intended to prepare details for Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to Delhi later this year; however, President Trump's latest action is expected to dominate talks; agenda includes supply of Russian oil

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval will hold meetings with senior Russian officials in Moscow on Thursday, just a day after the U.S. decided to impose an additional 25% penalty tariffs on India for its import of Russian oil.

According to sources, Mr. Doval's visit is intended to prepare details for Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to Delhi later this year. However, U.S. President Donald Trump's latest action, which the government called "extremely unfortunate", is expected to dominate talks. India is the second largest buyer of Russian crude oil after China.

Although the visit had been scheduled weeks earlier, the government's decision to go ahead with the NSA's travel appears to underline its intention to defy the U.S. actions.

"The current escalation of the geopolitical situation will also be discussed.

Seeking clarity: Ajit Doval during a meeting with Vladimir Putin in St Petersburg, Russia in September 2024. PTI

Apart from that, the topics will include such pressing matters as supplies of Russian oil [to India]," Russia's official *TASS* agency reported.

Ahead of the NSA's visit, Indian Ambassador to Russia Vinay Kumar met with Russia's Deputy Defence Minister Colonel General Aleksandr Fomin for talks, the Russian MFA said, that focused on "further strengthening the specialised cooperation in the form of a particularly privileged strategic partnership"

Among talks on defence cooperation, Mr. Doval is also expected to speak about the delivery of the remaining S-400 missile systems, that played an important role during the India-Pakistan conflict and Operation Sindoor in May this year. This is the NSA's first visit to Moscow since Operation Sindoor, although he attended the SCO NSA meeting in Beijing in June, and met with Mr. Shoigu's deputy, Russia's Security Council Deputy Secretary Aleksandr Venediktov there. In addition, Russia's recent decision to grant recognition to the Taliban regime in Afghanistan is also expected to come up.

The two sides will also possibly discuss the latest moves for talks between Russia and Ukraine, after the Kremlin said on Tuesday that U.S. Special envoy Steve Witkoff would be in Moscow to meet Mr. Putin.

Announcing the upcoming visit of Mr. Witkoff on Tuesday, Mr. Putin's Presidential aide Dmitry Peskov said Mr. Putin was prepared to meet Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy after expert-level talks but gave no timeline for the meeting.

When asked about Mr. Trump's threats against India, Mr. Peskov said Russia believes "sovereign countries must have, and do have, the right to choose their trade partners on their own, and independently determine those modes of trade and economic cooperation that suit the interests of a country in question".

Later this month, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will also visit Moscow for talks on the visit, which has been delayed for several years due to the Ukraine conflict which began in February 2022. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had visited Moscow last July, reviving the summit after a gap of three years.

Since 2022, India increased its oil imports from Russia multi-fold, defying pleas from European countries to stop increasing Russian revenues, from procuring less than a per cent of its imports from Russia, to nearly 40% of its oil at its peak.

After the U.S. announced plans for penalty tariffs on India last week, many Indian oil importers have reduced their demand, although the government said it would not submit to the tariffs by the U.S. and sanctions by the European Union.

In its statement on Monday , the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had also pointed out that the U.S. and the EU continue to trade on other goods with Russia.

Modi to meet Japanese PM as part of East Asia outreach

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of growing uncertainty in India-U.S. ties, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to reach out to East Asia in the coming weeks. As part of that initiative, Mr. Modi is likely to travel to Japan to meet his Japanese counterpart, Shigeru Ishiba, by the end of August. The visit to Japan is significant, as both countries are part of the Quad initiative that was launched by Australia, India, Japan, and the United States in 2017.

As the United States reorients its trade priorities, the resultant dynamics are expected to spill over to platforms where India and the U.S. cooperate on a number of issues.

Around this time, global attention will also be focused on the upcoming summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in China, where leaders of the SCO member states are expected to be present. However, there is no official confirmation of Mr. Modi's participation in the SCO summit during August 31-September 1.

'Trump's imposition of 50% tariff is economic blackmail to secure unfair trade deal'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Wednesday said the second round of 25% tariff imposed on India was an "economic blackmail" aimed at securing an unfair trade deal.

In a post on X, Mr. Gandhi said Prime Minister Narendra Modi should not let his "weakness" override the interests of the Indian people.

"Trump's 50% tariff is economic blackmail – an attempt to bully India into an unfair trade deal. PM Modi better not let his weakness override the interests of the Indian people," he wrote on X.

Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh also took a dig at the Union government's earlier assertions regarding the close personal relationship between Mr. Modi and the U.S. President.

Rahul Gandhi

"Mr. Modi has time and again flaunted his supposedly close friendship with President Trump. On Feb 14, 2025, he had shown off his knowledge of algebra by telling President Trump that MAGA + MIGA = MEGA," Mr. Ramesh said on X.

"Now President Trump, while still claiming to be a friend of Mr. Modi, has hit India hard and unjustly. While his tariff and penalty actions are simply unacceptable, the fact remains that they also reflect the abysmal failure of Mr. Modi's personalised and headline-grabbing style of hu-glomacy," Mr. Ramesh added.

Earlier, in a separate post, Mr. Gandhi had alleged that Prime Minister Modi cannot resist U.S. President Donald Trump's repeated threats due to "the ongoing U.S. investigation into Adani".

However, business tycoon Gautam Adani, and seven other defendants have been accused of paying about $265 million in bribes to Indian government officials to secure lucrative solar energy supply contracts on terms that expected to yield $2 billion of profit, according to an indictment unsealed in a New York court in November last year.

The Adani group had denied the allegations and maintained it is "committed to maintaining the highest standards of governance, transparency and regulatory compliance across all jurisdictions of its operations".

College student's charred body found in Odisha; kin allege police 'negligence'

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Villagers claim timely police intervention could have stopped her from taking the extreme step

The charred body of a 20-year-old college student was found in her house in Kendrapara district of Odisha on Wednesday.

When the woman's parents returned from hospital, they found smoke billowing from their house, which was locked from inside. After breaking open the door, they discovered the body.

The victim was a final-year undergraduate student. The woman's father alleged that she had been in a relationship with a youth for the past two years and had taken her own life after being blackmailed by her ex-boyfriend, with whom she had broken up six months ago.

This was the third incident of a woman dying of burns in Odisha since July 12 this year. The case took a controversial turn when the woman's father accused personnel of the Pattamundai Rural Police Station of discouraging his daughter from filing a complaint against the boy for blackmail.

Villagers said timely police intervention could have prevented the mental distress that ultimately drove her to take such an extreme step. The local police, however, denied the allegation.

Superintendent of Police Siddharth Kataria, who visited the house, said the alleged suicide and negligence by the local police would be thoroughly investigated.

The police filed a case under Sections 108 (abetment to suicide) and 351(2) (criminal intimidation) under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). However, no suicide note was recovered. The police said further clarity would emerge after the postmortem report is received.

Meanwhile, the Congress has announced a week-long campaign in protest against the increasing incidents of violence against women in the State. From August 8, Congress workers will gherao the office of the Director-General of Police in Cuttack, demanding the arrest of the three culprits who set ablaze a minor girl at Balanga in Puri.

State Congress president Bhakta Charan Das has appealed to party workers and citizens to join the protest in large numbers.

Those in distress or having suicidal tendencies can seek help and counselling by calling Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, telephone: 011-40769002

J&K govt. declares 25 books 'forfeited', citing 'secessionism'

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

The Jammu & Kashmir government on Wednesday declared 25 books, many by prominent writers such as A.G. Noorani, Sumantra Bose, Arundhati Roy and Ayesha Jalal, as "forfeited for propagating false narrative and secessionism" in J&K.

The Home Department invoked Section 98 of the Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) to categorise the 25 books as "forfeited".

Their circulation will be stopped.

"The identified 25 books have been found to excite secessionism and endangering sovereignty and integrity of India, thereby, attracting the provisions of Sections 152, 196 & 197 of Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023," the Home Department said in an order.

It said this literature would deeply impact the psyche of youth by promoting a culture of grievance, victimhood and terrorist-heroism.

The books declared as "forfeited" include *Independent Kashmir* by author Christopher Snedden; *The Kashmir Dispute 1947-2012* by author A.G. Noorani; *Kashmir at the Crossroads: Inside a 21st Century Conflict* by Sumantra Bose; *Kashmir & the future of South Asia* by Ayesha Jalal and Sugata Bose; *Azadi* by Arundhati Roy; *and Confronting Terrorism* by author Stephen P. Cohen.

Parliament passes legislation to modernise India's maritime laws

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025 was passed by the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday even as the Opposition continued loud protests against the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar. The Lok Sabha passed another maritime legislation, the Merchant Shipping Bill, 2024.

Amid the din in the Upper House, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also tabled the Demands for Grants for Manipur for 2025-26. Manipur has been under President's Rule since February 13.

The Rajya Sabha was earlier adjourned, soon after the tabling of papers and obituary references at 11 a.m. When the House reassembled at 2 p.m., Bhubaneswar Kalita, who was in the Chair, called for taking up the Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025, even as Opposition members continued to protest and trooped into the Well of the House. The Bill was approved by a voice vote amid the din. It had been passed by the Lok Sabha earlier.

Large backing: The Bill marks a significant step towards aligning India's maritime legal framework with global standards. REUTERS

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal said, "Today, with the passage of the Bills, the Modi government's push for India's modern shipping gets double endorsement from Parliament."

The Merchant Shipping Bill, 2024 is meant to be progressive, future-ready legislation that replaces the outdated Merchant Shipping Act of 1958. The Bill marks a significant step towards aligning India's maritime legal framework with global standards and strengthening the country's position as a trusted maritime trade hub.

The Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025, repealed the Indian Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, 1925.

The legislation is expected to simplify maritime trade laws, reduce litigation risks, and enhance transparency and commercial efficiency in cargo movement by sea.

LS cannot discuss revision of electoral rolls in Bihar: Rijiju

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

He says functioning of an autonomous body such as the EC cannot be discussed in House

Amid repeated disruptions by Opposition members, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Wednesday informed the Lok Sabha that a discussion on the special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bihar could not take place in the House as the matter was pending before the Supreme Court and the rules did not allow a discussion on issues under adjudication.

As soon as the House convened at 2 p.m. after two earlier disruptions, the Opposition continued to demand a discussion on the issue. Mr. Rijiju said the rules of the Lok Sabha did not permit such a discussion.

Citing a ruling by former Lok Sabha Speaker Balram Jakhar, he said the functioning and responsibilities of an autonomous body such as the Election Commission (EC) could not be deliberated in the House.

"I would like to ask the Opposition members if you want to break the rules of this House and throw away the provisions of the Constitution," Mr. Rijiju said.

Soon after, the Lok Sabha passed the Merchant Shipping Bill, 2024.

The House was adjourned for the day following the passage of the Bill.

'Move to remove voters'

Speaking to presspersons in the Parliament complex, Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal described the SIR as an exercise "to remove targeted voters".

"The EC introduced the system, they [the Centre] are justifying. Then why are they running away from a discussion on SIR in Parliament? What do they want to hide?," he asked.

Earlier in the day, INDIA MPs staged a protest in the Parliament complex before proceedings commenced.

The morning session of the Lok Sabha also saw two adjournments over the same issue.

Work together to make India third largest economy: Modi

Prime Minister inaugurates Kartavya Bhavan 3, says policies of the future will be formulated in the building; landmark infrastructure projects are a reflection of India's global vision, he adds

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Grand opening: Prime Minister Narendra Modi watering a sapling during the inauguration of Kartavya Bhavan 3 in New Delhi. PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday urged all stakeholders to work together to make India the world's third largest economy and scale up national productivity.

Addressing a programme to inaugurate Kartavya Bhavan 3 in the national capital, Mr Modi encouraged all Indians to contribute to the success stories of government initiatives such as Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat. Strengthening India's capabilities must become a shared pursuit and personal mission, he said.

India is witnessing key achievements associated with the making of a modern country, Mr. Modi said, listing recently built infrastructure landmarks such as Kartavya Path, the new Parliament Building, the new Defence Offices Complex, Bharat Mandapam, Yashobhoomi, and the National War Memorial dedicated to the martyrs. He emphasised that these were not merely buildings or regular infrastructure, pointing out that policies shaping a developed India would be formulated in these very structures. In the coming decades, the nation's trajectory would be determined from these institutions, he said.

For decades after Independence, India's administrative machinery had operated from buildings constructed during the British colonial era, he said. He noted the poor working conditions in these old administrative buildings, which "lack adequate space, lighting, and ventilation".

Mr. Modi said it was difficult to imagine how an important Ministry such as the Home Ministry had functioned for nearly 100 years from a single building with insufficient infrastructure.

He said various Ministries of the government currently operate from 50 locations across Delhi, many of which are rented buildings. He underlined that the annual expenditure on rental costs alone was a staggering ₹1,500 crore.

'Global vision'

"The grand Kartavya Bhavan and other major infrastructure projects, including the new Defence Complexes, are not only a testament to India's pace but also a reflection of its global vision," the Prime Minister said.

The Kartavya Bhavans, the new Central Secretariat buildings which will house all Ministries and departments of the Centre, embody the resolve to fulfil the nation's dreams and will guide the policies and direction of a developed India, he added.

He said that his government was engaged in nation-building with a holistic vision, and asserted that no part of the country was untouched by the stream of development today.

INBRIEF

Won't allow any action against State govt. officers: Mamata

A day after the Election Commission suspended four officials of the West Bengal State Electoral Office, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee came down heavily on the poll body, saying she would not allow any State government official to be punished. "Our officers have been sent notice that they have been suspended... Has the election been already declared? Under which law have you [the EC] sent notice and threatened to suspend [them] and said that an FIR should be registered," she said. On Tuesday, the EC sent a letter informing the Chief Secretary about the suspension of four officials for irregularities in the registration of names on the voter list.

Jharkhand court gives bail to Rahul in 2018 defamation case

Rahul Gandhi, Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, was granted bail by the MP-MLA court in Chaibasa of Jharkhand on Wednesday in connection with a defamation case related to alleged remarks against Union Minister Amit Shah made during a 2018 rally. "Jharkhand High Court had directed Rahul Gandhi *ji* to appear before the court on August 6. After his personal appearance the court has granted conditional bail to him," Mr. Gandhi's advocate, Pranav Daripa, said. The case was filed by BJP leader Pratap Kumar. In his plea, he alleged that Mr. Gandhi's statements were defamatory and intended to malign the image of Mr. Shah.

Omar writes to parties, seeks restoration of J&K's statehood

In a bid to garner support for the restoration of Jammu & Kashmir's statehood, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday wrote to the heads of all national political parties, including the BJP and the Congress. "Statehood is a promise made to the people of J&K in public meetings, in Parliament, and before the Supreme Court. The issue should be raised in Parliament so that the Bill is passed in the current session," he said. His pitch for statehood comes on the sixth anniversary of the abrogation of provisions of Article 370 in 2019. In the three-page letter, accessed by *The Hindu*, Mr. Abdullah described restoration of Statehood as "an essential course correction".

Opposition cites Dhankhar's remarks to counter govt.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Countering the government's arguments against holding a debate on the ongoing special intensive revision of Bihar electoral rolls, the Opposition on Wednesday cited remarks of former Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar in the Upper House that Parliament was entitled to discuss everything.

It also referred to previous instances when debates were held on electoral reforms and functioning of the Election Commission.

Congress president and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge wrote a letter to Deputy Chairman Harivansh where he quoted Mr. Dhankhar's remarks of July 21, 2023. The former Chairman had said that Parliament was "entitled to discuss everything on the planet with one restriction..." This restriction relates to the conduct of any judge of the Supreme Court or of a High Court in the discharge of his ties ... except upon a motion for presenting an address to the President praying for the removal of the judge..."

Hitting out: Members of the INDIA bloc addressing a press conference in New Delhi on Wednesday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Mr. Kharge claimed Mr. Dhankhar had ruled that "the concept of *sub judice* is totally misconceived". "It is clear from this ruling of the Chair that the Rajya Sabha is entitled to discuss the issue of revision of electoral rolls, which is of fundamental importance in our democracy," Mr. Kharge said in his letter.

Press conference

The INDIA bloc parties also addressed a press conference reiterating their demand for a debate on the SIR exercise.

At the press conference, Mr. Kharge claimed that minorities, Dalits, and adivasis were facing the risk of losing their voting rights.

"We have been urging the Speaker, Chairman, and the government again and again that the voting rights of people should not be stolen...," he said.

Trinamool Congress leader Sagarika Ghose said they would continue protests inside and outside Parliament. DMK leader Tiruchi Siva said they would take the message to the people on what was happening in Parliament. "Having full trust in this temple of democracy, we are insisting on a debate on SIR. The EC, by way of revising electoral rolls, is disqualifying many from having voting rights," he said.

Shashi Tharoor, Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Kanimozhi, Gopalkrishna Gandhi and author Priyambada Jayakumar at the launch of a book on M.S. Swaminathan in New Delhi on Wednesday. DEEPIKA RAJESH

Leaders hail work of visionary scientist M.S. Swaminathan

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The immunisation programme led by the country's first Health Minister, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, and the Green Revolution initiated by M.S. Swaminathan were the reasons for the decrease in the death rate in India, former West Bengal Governor Gopalkrishna Gandhi said here on Wednesday.

Speaking at the launch of *The Man Who Fed India*, a biography of Dr. Swaminathan by the Singapore-based author Priyambada Jayakumar, Mr. Gandhi said three English words known by all farmers in the country was "Swaminathan Farmer Commission".

Mr. Gandhi said Dr. Swaminathan had been part of the group of scientists around the world who stood for humanity and nuclear disarmament. "Swaminathan's works for agriculture has given India's farmers a life," Mr. Gandhi said.

In a panel discussion that followed the book release, Shashi Tharoor, MP, said Dr. Swaminathan worked at a time when the memories of Bengal famine were haunting the country.

'International contacts'

Former Planning Board Deputy Chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia said Dr. Swaminathan revolutionised the country's agriculture through his international contacts.

DMK leader Kanimozhi said Dr. Swaminathan's works for empowering women and ensuring ecologically friendly agriculture practices were not discussed the way it deserved.

Refer sports Bills to JPC, Opposition urges Speaker

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Leaders of several Opposition parties on Wednesday wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, urging him to refer the National Sports Governance Bill, 2025 and the National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill, 2025 to a joint committee of Parliament for further scrutiny.

In a letter to the Speaker, they said the two Bills listed for consideration and passage in the House need broader consensus.

"In view of their national importance, the need for broad consensus, and the value of consulting relevant stakeholders, we respectfully request that both these Bills be referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) for further deliberation," they said.

The signatories include K.C. Venugopal, Gaurav Gogoi and K. Suresh of the Congress, Supriya Sule of the NCP(SP), Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar of the Trinamool Congress, Kanimozhi of the DMK, Arvind Sawant of the Shiv Sena (UBT), N.K. Premachandran of the RSP, D. Ravi Kumar of the VCK, Durai Vaiko of the MDMK and E.T. Mohammed Bashir of the IUML. They said the Bills proposed wide-ranging reforms in the governance, regulation, and ethical oversight of sports in India.

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Corrigendum No - 1
निविदा सूचना / TENDER NOTICE
IIMK invites Tender from eligible and qualified firms for Tender for Providing Hospitality Management, General Maintenance, Catering Services etc. at IIMK Management Development Centre (Viveka) and Running RASA Restaurant at IIMK Campus.
Last date of bid submission has been extended to 22.08.2025 up to 1500 Hrs.
https://www.iimk.ac.in/announcements/Tender.php or https://mhrd.ewizard.in.
Sd/-
06.08.2025 Head - Admin & HR

MP POORV KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN CO. LTD.
BLOCK NO.7, SHAKTI BHAWAN, RAMPUR, JABALPUR (M.P), Tel No:0761 2702473, 270442
CIN: U40109MP2002SGC015120, e-mail: cepurez@yahoo.in
No. CGM(S&P)/EZ/GM-II/III/1118 Jabalpur, dtd:- 25.07.2025
ONLINE TENDER
Online Tenders are invited for following items:-

Sr. No.	TS No. (For e-Tendering) Discom/EZ/Pur	NAME OF ITEMS	APPROX. VALUE (Rs. in Lakhs)	TENDER FEE (in Rs)	Due date & time of opening of tender online from 15.00 Hrs (*)
1	TS-1609 (e-Tender No. 2025_PKVVC_439804_1)	Lightning Arresters	18.63	1180	20.08.2025

*For updated / extended due dates for opening of tender (EMD in Cover -1 & Techno-commercial bid in Cover-2) please refer to the online key dates. For other details visit Company's website:- www.mpez.co.in or https://mptenders.gov.in
// SAVE ENERGY FOR BETTER TOMORROW //
"विद्युत् अनियमितता संबंधी शिकायत के लिए वी मित्र ऐप डाउनलोड करें और पाएं रु. 50,000 तक का इनाम!" C.G.M. (S&P)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION JHUNJHUNU
No.:- 301 Date: 22.07.2025
NIB Code: PWD2526A0848 and UBN is: PWD2526WLOB02727
Corrigendium
इस कार्यालय के क्रमांक 125 दिनांक 26.05.2025 द्वारा आमंत्रित ऑनलाईन ई-निविदा सूचना 08/2025-26 (NIB No. PWD2526A0848) के अपरिहार्य कारणों से निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है।

क्र. सं.	विवरण	पूर्व में टेण्डर प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम दिनांक व समय	संशोधित टेण्डर प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम दिनांक व समय
1	ऑनलाईन निविदा फार्म डाउनलोड करने व अपलोड करने की दिनांक व समय	24.07.2025 सायं 05.00 बजे तक	08.08.2025 दोपहर 12.00 बजे तक
2	निविदा खोलने की दिनांक व समय	24.07.2025 सायं 06.00 बजे	08.08.2025 सायं 5.00 बजे

शेष शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।
(NIB No.: PWD2526A0848)
DIPR/C/11049/2025 Executive Engineer, PWD Division JHUNJHUNU

E-mail ID: cebuildings_orissa@yahoo.co.in; cebuildings@rediffmail.com; Tel. - (0674)-2391523
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA
NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
File No- B-IV-H-(H&D)-47/2024 Lr. No.- 29977 Bhubaneswar, the 1st Aug., 2025
Invitation For Bids - Bid Identification No. C.E. (B) - 20 / 2025-26

1.	The Chief Engineer (Buildings-I), Odisha, Bhubaneswar, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for the works, (1)" Construction of CHC Building at Manada, Mayurbhanj, Odisha", (2)" Construction of CHC Building at Dhamnagar, Bhadrak, Odisha" & (3)" Construction of CHC Building at Barapada, Bhadrak, Odisha" as detailed below.		
2.	Nature of work	:	Building Works
3.	No. of work	:	03 Nos.
4.	Bid Cost	:	₹ 10,000/- (each)
5.	Class of Contractor	:	'A' / Special Class
6.	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	:	From dt.12.08.2025 to 17.00 Hours of dt.26.08.2025.
7.	Date of Opening of Bid	:	Dt. 29.08.2025 at 11:30 AM
8.	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum /corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.		

Chief Engineer (Buildings-I), Odisha,
B-368: OIPR-34117/11/0126/2526

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Raichur Thermal Power Station)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919
SHORT TERM TENDER / ABSTRACT BID NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal only)
Tenders are invited through KPP portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from the contractors/agencies who are reputed individuals/company and having past experience, for the following works. 1) No. KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT 3015/CALL-2 Dtd 02.08.2025: Overhauling & Emergency Works of Turbine Bearings, Valves, MS/HRH Strainer & Thermal Insulation. EMD: Rs. 1,47,600/- 2) No. KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3213/CALL-2: Periodical maintenance & Overhauling of main oil pump, inspection of bearings/bearing oil guards and strainers, thermal insulation works, governing rack servicing of turbine & auxiliaries of Unit 5, 6, 7 & 8 PMOH-3. Amount put to tender: Rs. 74,24,573/- Rs. EMD: Rs. 1,48,500/- Last date for submission of above tenders: 09.08.2025 upto 16:00 Hrs. Further details can be obtained from *(for Sl. No. 1)*: Executive Engineer(TM-1), Mobile: 9449597971 *(for Sl. No. 2)*: Executive Engineer(TM-2), Mobile: 9449596545, 3) No. KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3301: Supply, Fabrication and Erection of platform MS Grills at Unit 5 & at Unit 8 mill bay. EMD: Rs. 80,000/- Last date for submission of the tender: 16.08.2025 upto 16:00 Hrs. For further details can be obtained from Executive Engineer(MM-2), Mobile: 94495 96574, RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar-584170, Raichur District, Karnataka State.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BOLANGIR.
e - Procurement NOTICE

1.	Name of Work	:	Construction of Court Building for JMFC at Muribahal in the District of Bolangir for the year 2023-24.
2.	No. of Works	:	1 (One) work.
3.	Time for Completion	:	18 (Eighteen) Calendar Months
4.	Approximate Estimated Cost	:	Rs.709.44 lakhs
5.	Mode of Submission of tender	:	Tender should be submitted online in www.tendersodisha.gov.in
6.	Other details are as follow		

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Bolangir.	BLGR-Online-09/2025-26	11.08.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	26.08.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.	25.08.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.	30.08.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	The date will be intimated later on

● Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
● Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e tender website only.
Sd/- S.Mahali,
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Bolangir
O-535 : OIPR-25118/11/0044/2526

INBRIEF

Former U.P. Minister Swami Prasad Maurya 'slapped'

Former Uttar Pradesh Cabinet Minister Swami Prasad Maurya was allegedly slapped by two youth near Rae Bareli on Wednesday. The incident took place when he had stopped for an event. "An individual misbehaved with the former Minister while pretending to be waiting to garland him. Two people were caught by supporters and security guards of the leader. We have taken the duo into custody and further investigation is on," said Circle Officer (Sadar) Amit Singh. A video purported to be of the attack went viral on social media. The Apni Janta Party chief, a leading Backward Class leader, blamed the Karni Sena for the incident.

'Vantara to open rescue centre in Kolhapur for Madhuri'

With people in Kolhapur taking to the streets demanding the return of the elephant Madhuri, which was relocated to the Anant Ambani-founded Vantara following a court ruling, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Wednesday that the Jamnagar-based rehabilitation centre has offered to set up a facility at Nandani village for Madhuri and join the Maharashtra government's application in the court for her return. The Nandani Math, where the elephant was kept for three decades, said the government should give a date for Madhuri's return. The move comes after Mr. Fadnavis met the Vantara team.

Aadhaar face ID can ensure exam 'transparency': Centre

Staff Selection Commission and Railway Recruitment Board already authorised to use Aadhaar face recognition to authenticate examinees; it builds trust among aspirants, says IT Ministry

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Aadhaar face authentication will help enhance transparency of competitive examinations, build trust among aspirants, and strengthen administrative accountability, the Electronics and Information Technology Ministry told Parliament on Wednesday.

In a written response to a question endorsed by eight Lok Sabha members, the Ministry said the Staff Selection Commission and the Railway Recruitment Board were already authorised to use Aadhaar facial recognition to authenticate examinees.

Using the "liveness" factor with phone cameras, Aadhaar face authentication matches people with the photo they took when enrolling for Aadhaar, and the feature has seen increased interest among government bodies. For instance, the Employment Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) said in a circular last month that universal account numbers, the main identifying number for salaried employees and retirees with PF accounts, would be generated henceforth only with this feature.

Unique identity: Aadhaar authentication in general requires approval from the IT Ministry. REUTERS

The feature has seen increased interest in view of Aadhaar authentication failures due to worn-out biometrics among labourers and elderly people.

In a separate response to DMK MP A. Raja, the Ministry said the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) was undertaking "promotion of face and iris authentication for residents with worn fingerprints" to cater to people who could not use their fingerprints.

The India Post Payments Bank, under the Department of Posts, introduced Aadhaar face authentication this month. The feature "is aligned with Digital India and Financial Inclusion missions of the Government of India", the bank said, adding that its use empowers "values of equity, access, and empowerment".

Aadhaar authentication in general – not just facial recognition authentication – requires approval from the IT Ministry.

In the Aadhaar Authentication for Good Governance (Social Welfare, Innovation, Knowledge) Amendment Rules, 2025 notified in January, the Ministry laid out a framework where private entities as well as government organisations could submit authentication proposals to the IT Ministry, which would have them vetted by the UIDAI.

The IT Ministry has set up a Social Welfare, Innovation, Knowledge (SWIK) portal where such proposals can be submitted. A review of the portal shows that up to half a dozen (or as little as one or two) proposals a month are being approved every month.

On Monday, the Sports Authority of India was authorised to use Aadhaar authentication to "verify the identity of athletes, coaches, and staff during registration, attendance marking, and DBT processing under schemes such as *Khelo* India, Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), and National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs)".

As many as 312 Union and State government organisations have received approvals under SWIK rules since 2020.

Ex-BJP spokesperson cannot be HC judge, says Opposition

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

The Opposition parties in Maharashtra on Wednesday sought the revocation of the Supreme Court Collegium's recommendation to appoint former BJP spokesperson Aarti Sathe as a judge of the Bombay High Court.

NCP(SP) MLA Rohit Pawar asked if people from other parties would get justice when a case was presented before her. "We are afraid that if people who have vociferously put forth the BJP's voice are appointed as judges, then tomorrow common people will not get justice. We trust the judicial system. But we have no access to information about how the interviews were taken, who all were interviewed, who were rejected, on what grounds it had happened," Mr. Pawar said.

"This is an effort by the BJP to control the judicial system," Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut said.

Congress leader Vijay Waddettiwar too sought the revocation of the recommendation.

The debate was sparked after Mr. Rohit Pawar posted on X a statement on the Supreme Court Collegium's meeting held on July 28 and its recommendation of three names for appointment as judges of the Bombay High Court. It included Aarti Arun Sathe's name. The post also had the screenshot of Aarti Sathe's social media post of two years ago, in which she had shared a press note of the BJP announcing the list of State spokespersons.

Aarti Sathe

BJP reacts

The BJP was quick to jump to her defence on Wednesday. The party said that Ms. Sathe had severed ties with the party over two years ago. It pointed to a verdict of the Supreme Court (*Anna Mathew and others vs Supreme Court of India* RP(C) 147 and 148/2023, dated February 10, 2023), saying that there had been instances of judicial appointments of people previously associated with political parties.

SC begins hearing pleas of women Army officers denied permanent commissions

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday began hearing the pleas of women Army officers with short service commissions (SSC), who claim they are being denied permanent commissions as a result of discrimination by their male counterparts.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant, Ujjal Bhuyan, and N. Kotiswar Singh began hearing the petitions filed by two batches of officers, those serving and those released from service.

The top court said that after the Army officers, it would hear pleas from women Naval officers, followed by women officers in the Air Force, who are challenging the denial of permanent commissions.

Senior advocates Huzefa Ahmadi, Menaka Guruswamy, V. Mohana, and other lawyers represented the SSC woman officers, who contended there was systematic discrimination in not granting them permanent commissions. The women officers contended that there was casual grading of their annual confidential reports and denial of equal opportunities in comparison to their male counterparts.

The Bench proposed uniform guidelines in granting permanent commissions, but pointed out that factors such as specialised training must be kept in mind. It also asked the officers what they felt should be the basis for assessment for permanent commissions.

Inconclusive

The Supreme Court was hearing a batch of more than 75 petitions challenging the denial of permanent commissions on various grounds. The hearing remained inconclusive and will be continued on August 7.

The top court said that interim orders passed earlier would remain in force, restraining the Centre from releasing these officers from service till the adjudication of their pleas.

Liquidate regulatory assets owed to discoms within four years: SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday gave power distribution companies a four-year deadline, starting from April 1 last year, to liquidate their long-pending regulatory assets while noting that "electricity is a public good".

A Bench headed by Justice P.S. Narasimha delivered the judgment on petitions filed by BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd., BSES Yamuna Power Ltd., and Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd., power supply companies in the national capital.

They had challenged the manner in which the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission had determined the tariff for retail supply of power over the years, leading to the creation and continuation of a "regulatory asset", which has led to liabilities burgeoning over decades.

"Regulatory assets are treated as assets in the balance sheet and are liquidated over a defined period of time through tariff adjustments or government subsidies. The regulatory asset is a cost incurred by the utility that the Regulatory Commission allows to be deferred on the balance sheet instead of being immediately expensed," Justice Narasimha said.

He directed the liquidation of the existing dues by April 2028.

The court said that in future, regulatory assets must be liquidated within a period of three years. The judgment directed the State Regulatory Commissions to provide the roadmap for liquidation of the existing regulatory assets.

Fishing gear a major source of 'microplastic' contamination along Indian coasts: Minister

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The major sources of 'microplastic' pollution along India's coasts are "riverine inputs" and abandoned, lost, and discarded fishing gear, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh said in a written response to a question in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), through the National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), conducted field surveys along India's coastline between 2022 and 2025 to assess microplastic and marine debris levels. Assessment of microplastics in both water and sediment has been carried out along the east and west coasts of India. On the west coast, 19 transects were surveyed from Porbandar (Gujarat) to Kanniyakumari (Tamil Nadu), while on the east coast, around 25 transects were sampled from Puri (Odisha) to Thoothukudi (Tamil Nadu). The findings indicated that the predominant sources of microplastic pollution are riverine inputs and abandoned, lost, and discarded fishing gear (ALDFG), he said.

Plastic waste washed ashore after flowing into the sea in Visakhapatnam.

Microplastics are tiny plastic particles, ranging in size from 1 micrometre to 5 millimetres. They can be either primary microplastics, manufactured at that size, or secondary microplastics, formed from the breakdown of larger plastic items. The major concern for microplastics is that they are being increasingly linked to tumours, and are said to be poisonous to marine and aquatic life.

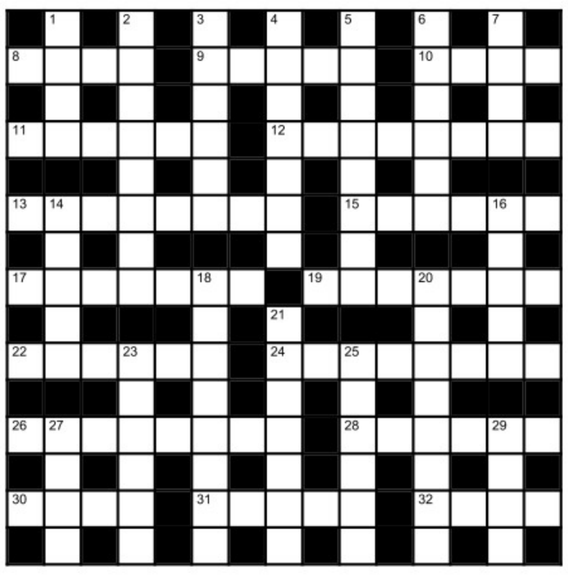
The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India commissioned a project to assess microplastic contamination in food products and develop methods for its detection. The environmental research organisation Toxics Link tested 10 types of salt that claimed to reveal the presence of microplastics in all salt and sugar samples, in various forms, including fibre, pellets and films.

TH CROSSWORD + 14557

(set by Gridzilla)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Facts twisted a bit? (4)
9 Order lunch perhaps, including starter of dumplings (5)
10 Grass is basically recreational - enjoy every drag (4)
11 Part of mixed fraction having one number missing? (6)
12 Discovered best hotel - pricy, and private (8)
13 They have hopes of getting peace initially, in rocky sierras (8)
15 Nymphs love to look at butt of Adonis (6)
17 Manipulation of American company by Indian state, is over (7)
19 Boss went out with wife and apprentice (7)
22 Remove wrapping of fuse & cables to get current (6)
24 Like canines in Manhattan need - meals mostly cooked (8)
26 Bar owner is drunk all day and not active (8)
28 Plan of cycling team: winning competition ultimately (6)
30 First of all, men actually like erotic sex (4)
31 Big lake? Sounds scary (5)
32 Report is from Sweden possibly - not Germany (4)

Down

1 Hot stuff turning up in Lonavala (4)
2 "Mark goes," says Spooner, "to get some baked goodies" (8)
3 Fine cream whipped with a little egg (6)
4 Marketing jingle is bad (6)
5 Remove from below? (5,3)
6 Country has oil, reportedly (6)
7 Cheese seller made Limburger sandwiches (4)
14 Cracks seen after reviewing bridges (5)
16 What starts in discos and night clubs everywhere? (5)
18 Renegades managed to deliver ecstasy and explosives (8)
20 / 29 A robe Gwen & Doris used repeatedly (8,4)
21 From work, Roy went around the city (3,4)
23 Huge debt is hurting this economy, eh? (6)
25 Pulled top off, getting confused (6)
27 Horse in fair maybe overlooked periodically (4)
29 See 20

SUDOKU

					2	5		
		3	5			1	8	9
		9	6					2
	3					9		
7								6
		2					7	
6					1	8		
3	1	7			5	2		
		5	9					

No.SS6604 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

G	P	R	T	S	V	H		
E	M	O	L	U	M	E	N	T
T	L	M	A	E	T	V		
T	W	O	P	O	T	S	C	R
H	N	U	E	N	M	L	T	
E	X	E	C	R	A	T	E	S
W	C				O	N		P
I	N	K	L	I	N	G	N	O
N			N	O			O	H
D	I	T	C	H	M	E	T	A
U	E	U	E	R	A	M	L	
P	O	R	T	M	A	N	T	E
	R	A	T	N	S	U	R	
M	O	O	N	A	D	D	R	E
R	E	L	Y	S	E	N		

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	2	7	1	5	6	3	9	8
3	1	5	9	8	7	6	2	4
9	8	6	4	2	3	7	1	5
8	7	9	3	6	5	2	4	1
2	3	1	7	4	8	5	6	9
5	6	4	2	9	1	8	3	7
7	4	3	5	1	2	9	8	6
1	5	8	6	3	9	4	7	2
6	9	2	8	7	4	1	5	3

FAITH

Ramana Maharishi

It is universally acknowledged that one is blessed to view the sight of devotees streaming into Pandharpur on Ashada Ekadasi. It is a clear, crystalline display of deep devotion.

Sage Narada, widely held to be the guru of bhakti, was once asked what is bhakti and he said, "The nature of bhakti is indefinable, one that cannot be described." It is that love of God, that *premam*, which one cannot understand, unless it is manifested through a devotee, said Ramanacharana Tirtha Swami (Nochur).

In his Saundarya Lahiri, Adi Sankara, speaking on how to see Siva through the heart of a devotee, says He is seen as the fruit of all the spiritual practices in, of and by a devotee. One cannot see the electricity that powers a bulb to burn, but can experience the light; similarly, one cannot see, but none can miss the devotee whose heart is in inundation (Lahiri); this ecstasy can only be experienced, something that countless devotees felt when in the presence of Ramana Maharishi.

One can read tomes of articles on the life and teachings of Ramana Maharishi, but that would only be like the tip of the proverbial iceberg. His devotees maintain to this day that the saint who made Tiruvannamalai his home was not something you experienced with mere eyes. It is something that comes from the heart. People who saw him, simply absorbed him. Those who came to question him fell silent in his presence, doubts forgotten, experiencing a never before calmness. Seeing him seated in his abode, like burnished gold, he seemed like Arunchaleswara to his devotees.

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	80,544	-0.21
US Dollar	87.72	0.18
Gold	99,020	0.20
Brent oil	67.33	0.10

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2300.30	-27.90
Adani Ports	1367.10	9.00
Apollo Hosp	7189.50	-84.50
Asian Paints	2491.20	54.40
Axis Bank	1071.00	0.20
Bajaj Auto	8178.50	-52.00
Bajaj Finserv	1924.00	-15.40
Bajaj Finance	876.65	-15.25
Bharat Elec	389.70	3.05
Bharti Airtel	1929.70	-2.10
Cipla	1486.70	-13.10
Coal India	376.85	-2.65
Dr Reddys Lab	1196.70	-18.10
Eicher Motors	5668.00	-13.00
Eternal Ltd.	298.85	-3.30
Grasim Ind	2765.80	-31.40
HCL Tech	1463.20	-19.50
HDFC Bank	1985.30	7.70
HDFC Life	752.55	14.05
Hero MotoCorp	4474.90	-71.90
Hindalco	684.85	-2.25
Hind Unilever	2535.60	0.90
ICICI Bank	1443.60	-0.80
IndusInd Bank	803.35	-15.80
Infosys	1436.70	-23.60
ITC	412.00	-2.15
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	326.55	-6.30
JSW Steel	1052.60	-0.80
Kotak Bank	2002.40	-0.60
L&T	3628.40	-24.20
M&M	3227.50	15.30
Maruti Suzuki	12524.00	-13.00
NestleIndia	2233.30	-34.00
NTPC	332.10	-1.50
ONGC	233.77	-0.71
PowerGrid Corp	284.80	-1.20
Reliance Ind	1392.80	1.10
SBI Life	1854.30	-2.70
State Bank	805.15	4.55
Shriram Finance Ltd.	630.60	0.50
Sun Pharma	1595.20	-36.90
TataConsumerProduct	1052.80	-11.80
Tata Motors	652.85	-1.75
Tata Steel	158.66	-0.96
TCS	3032.30	-31.60
Tech Mahindra	1459.00	-26.40
Titan	3417.70	-0.50
Trent Ltd.	5356.50	39.00
UltraTech Cement	12226.00	-72.00
Wipro	239.96	-5.95

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 06

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	87.53	87.85
Euro	101.62	102.00
British Pound	116.61	117.05
Japanese Yen (100)	59.36	59.58
Chinese Yuan	12.18	12.23
Swiss Franc	108.49	108.90
Singapore Dollar	68.05	68.30
Canadian Dollar	63.64	63.88
Malaysian Ringitt	20.69	20.78
Australian Dollar	56.94	57.15

Source:Indian Bank

MPC holds repo rate at 5.5%, maintains GDP growth at 6.5%

Headwinds emanating from prolonged geopolitical tensions, volatility in global financial markets posing risks to growth outlook, says committee

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday voted to maintain the policy repo rate at 5.50% and continue with its neutral stance after assessing the current and evolving macroeconomic situation.

Consequently, the standing deposit facility (SDF) rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) remains unchanged at 5.25% and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the bank rate at 5.75%.

This decision is towards achieving the medium-term target for consumer price index (CPI) inflation of 4% within a band of +/- 2%, while supporting growth. The MPC took note that the global environment continues to be challenging. Global growth, though revised upwards by the IMF, remains muted. The pace of disinflation is slowing down, with some advanced economies even witnessing an uptick in inflation, it noted.

In this backdrop, the domestic growth remains resilient and is broadly evolving along the lines of our assessment, it stated.

However, the prospects of external demand remain uncertain amid ongoing tariff announcements and

Policy matters: RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra delivering the monetary policy statement on Wednesday. PTI

trade negotiations. The headwinds emanating from prolonged geopolitical tensions, persisting global uncertainties, and volatility in global financial markets pose risks to the growth outlook, it observed. Taking various factors into account, the projection for real GDP growth for 2025-26 has been retained at 6.5%, with Q1 at 6.5%, Q2 at 6.7%, Q3 at 6.6% , and Q4 at 6.3%.

Real GDP growth for Q1:2026-27 is projected at 6.6%. The risks are evenly balanced.

Stating that CPI headline inflation declined for the eighth consecutive month to a 77-month low of 2.1% (y-o-y) in June 2025, the MPC observed that this was driven primarily by a sharp decline in food inflation led by improved agricultural activity and various supply side measures. However, core inflation, which remained within a narrow range of 4.1-4.2% during February-May, increased to 4.4% in June, driven partly by a continued increase in gold prices, it stated adding that the inflation outlook for 2025-26 had become more benign than expected in June.

Considering various factors, CPI inflation for 2025-26 has been projected at 3.1% [as compared with 3.7% previously] with Q2 at 2.1%; Q3 at 3.1% ; and Q4 at 4.4%. CPI inflation for Q1:2026-27 is projected at 4.9%. The risks are evenly balanced.

"Despite a challenging external environment, the Indian economy is navigating a steady growth path with price stability," RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said in his Monetary Policy statement.

'India is doing better than the U.S., has robust growth rate'

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The governor said amid uncertainties, the RBI had already reduced repo rate by 100 basis points

The impact of the global uncertainties emanating from the tariff war have already been factored in in the revised growth forecast, and it would be very difficult to predict the likely impact now, Reserve Bank of India Governor Sanjay Malhotra said at the post Monetary Policy Committee meeting press conference on Wednesday.

When asked by *The Hindu* for his comment on U.S. President Donald Trump's remark that India's is a dead economy, he said India is doing better than the U.S. "I am not the right person to react to the President. But yes, you are all aware that we have a very robust growth rate of 6.5%. And in fact, as per IMF, it is 6.4% and 3% growth rate of the world if you look at," Mr. Malhotra said.

"We are contributing about 18% which is more than the US whose contribution would be much lesser, I think 11% or some. So we are doing very well and we will continue for further improvement," he added. He said the RBI would maintain a close vigil on the incoming data and take appropriate measures as per need. "On the growth, we have already reduced our forecast which was earlier at 6.7% to 6.5%. Some of the global uncertainties have already been factored in.

However, there are still lot of uncertainties. It is very difficult to predict as to what the impact would be going forward," he said.

"We will maintain a close vigil on the incoming data and take a call. As of now we do not have sufficient data to revise our GDP forecast," he added.

He said amid the uncertainties, the RBI had already reduced repo rate by 100 basis points and the policy transmission was happening. "We will continue to do whatever is required to facilitate good growth while maintaining price stability," he emphasised. On whether external factors like the tariff war would have any impact on inflation, he replied in the negative. "We are less dependant on outside so far inflation is concerned. We do not see any major impact unless we have retaliatory tariff. The impact of the outside factor on inflation will be very very limited," he asserted.

Since the U.S. is forcing India to stop buying crude oil from Russia and in the likely event of India stopping it, there would be no impact on inflation despite crude oil having significant bearing on it, he said.

Mr. Malhotra clarified that UPI users will not have to pay for the transaction to banks as reported in some sections as the government is subsidising the cost of transaction to promote digital payments.

INBRIEF

Indosol plans IPO in FY27; awarded ₹5,175 cr. under PLI

Indosol Solar Pvt. Ltd., a solar PV manufacturer and a wholly owned subsidiary of Shirdi Sai Electricals Ltd., is planning to go for an initial public offering (IPO) next financial year after the company's ongoing 1 GW line in Andhra Pradesh is commissioned. Chairman and MD of Shirdi Sai Electricals N. Visweswara Reddy said Indosol Solar has been recognised under the PLI scheme and awarded a total incentive of ₹5,175 crore. PTI

SBI to begin recruitment of 5,583 junior associates

State Bank of India on Wednesday said it will begin hiring of junior associates for 5,583 vacant positions across the country. The online registration window for applications will be open from August 6-26, SBI said in a statement. This fresh recruitment for FY26 comes on the back of the bank's hiring of 505 probationary officers and 13,455 junior associates in previous months, aimed at enhancing its process and service delivery across the country, SBI said. PTI

Shriram Life Insurance individual NBP rose 21% in Q1

Shriram Life Insurance Company reported a 21% year-on-year increase in individual New Business Premium (NBP) for the quarter ended June to ₹257 crore from ₹212 crore a year earlier. The increase was driven by a broader distribution footprint, higher average ticket size and branch expansion, the company said. Renewal premium across individual business rose 25% year-on-year to ₹323 crore (₹259 crore). Total premium for Q1FY26 rose 27% YoY to ₹863 crore (₹679 crore).

'End of transmission fee waiver for solar, wind to hit 26 GW RE'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

About 26 gigawatt of renewable energy (RE) projects are expected to be impacted with the end of waiver on inter-State transmission system (ISTS) charges provided for solar and wind projects, according to Crisil Ratings.

The deadline for announcing an extension on ISTS charges for setting up and commissioning solar and wind projects ended on June 30, 2025.

In a recent report, Crisil Ratings said, "Around 26 gigawatt (GW) of under-construction utility scale renewable energy projects, for which power purchase agreements (PPAs) have already been signed, may face moderation in cash flow following expiry

ISTS charge waiver gave a boost to RE development.

of the 100% ISTS charge exemption on June 30, 2025."

These projects, which have experienced commissioning delays due to procedural, regulatory and infrastructure challenges, may now be subject to a phased reduction in benefits, Crisil Ratings said.

The ISTS charge waiver, was instrumental in encouraging renewable energy development.

M&M to give 23,000 staff ₹400-500-cr. stock options

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

In an industry-first initiative, Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) is introducing a one-time Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) for about 23,000 employees, including factory floor workers, as a reward for their contribution to the company's growth journey, Group CEO & MD Anish Shah said.

The initiative covers three of M&Ms key subsidiaries viz. Mahindra & Mahindra (auto and farm sectors), Mahindra Electric Automobile and Mahindra Last Mile Mobility.

This marks a rare – and possibly first – instance of a large Indian conglomerate extending ESOPs to shop floor workers. The total disbursement would be between ₹400-₹500 crore.

OpenAI said to eye $500 bn valuation in likely staff share sale

Reuters

ChatGPT maker OpenAI is in early-stage discussions about a stock sale that would allow employees to cash out and could value the company at about $500 billion, a source familiar with the matter said.

That would represent an eye-popping bump-up from its current valuation of $300 billion, with the sale underscoring OpenAI's rapid gains in users and revenue as well as the intense competition among AI firms to secure talented workers.

The transaction, which would come before a potential IPO, would allow current and former employees to sell several billion dollars worth of shares, said the source.

Bolstered by flagship

MS-backed OpenAI has about 700 million weekly active users.

product ChatGPT, OpenAI doubled its revenue in the first seven months of the year, reaching an annualized run rate of $12 billion, and is on track to reach $20 billion by year-end, the source added.

Microsoft-backed OpenAI has about 700 million weekly active users for its ChatGPT products, a surge from about 400 million in February.

'Burden of any rise in tariffs by U.S. will fall on low-income American households'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

A day after U.S. President Donald Trump announced that he will raise tariffs on India "very substantially", Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) Member Shamika Ravi said the burden of any such increase will fall on low-income American households.

Mr. Trump on Tuesday said India has not been a good trading partner and announced he will raise tariffs on India "very substantially" over the next 24 hours.

"Mr. Trump's tariffs are effectively a tax on cheap goods available from the global markets, the burden of which will fall on low-income American households.

Trump tariffs are a tax on cheap goods available from the global markets, says Dr. Ravi. REUTERS

"These tariffs are eventually a transfer from low-income American households to the U.S. government," Ms. Ravi said in a social media post on X.

On August 1, Mr. Trump signed an executive order titled 'Further Modifying The Reciprocal Tariff Rates', raising tariffs for over five dozen countries, including a steep 25% for India. Last week, Mr. Trump mounted a sharp attack on India and Russia for close ties and said the two countries can take their "dead economies down together", a remark that prompted New Delhi to say India is the world's fastest-growing major economy.

Declaring the U.S. has a massive trade deficit with India, Mr. Trump had said while "India is our friend, we have, over the years, done relatively little business with them because their tariffs are far too high, among the highest in the world, and they have the most strenuous and obnoxious non-monetary Trade Barriers of any country."

Clean energy firm Hylenr raises $3 mn to commercialise product

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Hylenr raised about $3 million in a pre-series A funding round expected to aid the clean energy startup accelerate product commercialisation.

The fresh capital willenable it to fast-track from pilot to market launch. It signals growing investor confidence in Low Energy Nuclear Reactions (LENR) as a viable alternative to fossil fuels, Hylenr said.

The round was led by Valour Capital and Chhattisgarh Investments, early-

Hylenr is focused on carbon free heat energy systems.

stage investors focused on deep-tech/energy transition technologies. Individual investors Karthik Sundar Iyer and Anant Sarda also participated.

Hylenr is focused on harnessing LENR to develop scalable, carbon-free heat energy systems for industrial heat and power.

"LENR has the potential to be the safest and most energy-efficient thermal and electrical generation technology of the future," CMD Siddhartha Durairajan said.

The Hyderabad-based startup said its product pipeline range from 7.2KW for domestic consumption to 1MW for large-scale industrial applications.

The firm is targeting $25 million in the next fundraising round.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
PROJECTS CIRCLE, CHENNAI - 16
TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No.04/ 2025-2026/SDO/ Dated: 06.08.2025

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu a **Percentage tender** through online only will be received **upto 16.09.2025, 14.00 hours** by the **Superintending Engineer (H) Projects Circle, Chennai** for **One Bypass Road work** in respect of **Chennai (H) Projects Division** under **CRIDP 2025-26.**

Details of Name of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from **13.08.2025,** onwards in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in.** If any Changes / Corrections / Amendments etc. to the tender, it will be published on the above Government website only.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H), PROJECTS CIRCLE, CHENNAI-16.
DIPR/4207/TENDER/2025

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
Tirunelveli (H) NABARD and Rural Roads Circle
TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No.10/ 2025-2026/ D1 / Dated: 05.08.2025

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamilnadu sealed **Percentage tender for Two Bypass works in Double cover system** Separately through online only will be received **upto 15.00 hours on 09.09.2025 by the Superintending Engineer (H), NABARD and Rural Roads, Tirunelveli circle** for the works approved in G.O.(Ms) No.105 Highways and Minor Ports (HF2) Department dated.02.07.2025 under Formation of Tenkasi Bypass Km 3/0 – 6/0 (Phase-II) and Sankarankovil Bypass Town Km 0/0 – 0/900 & 2/150 – 7/2 in **Tirunelveli (H) NABARD and Rural Roads Division.**

Details such as Name of work, approximate value of work, online EMD, documents to be uploaded, critical dates and all other details related to the work will be available **from 08.08.2025** onwards in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in** If any changes/ Corrections / Amendments etc related to this tender arises, it will be published on the above Government website only.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H), NABARD AND RURAL ROADS, TIRUNELVELI-2
DIPR/4205/TENDER/2025

PESHAWAR

Pakistan extends Afghan refugee deportation deadline to Sept. 1

AFP

Pakistan extended the deadline for the deportation of Afghan refugees to September 1,as the United Nations welcomed the decision while expressing concern over coerced returns. The refugees will be allowed a "grace period" of 25 days, from August 4 to August 31, to voluntarily return to their home country. AP

ISLAMABAD

Pak. Army denies 'rumours' that Munir plans to become President

AFP

The Pakistan Army has denied as "baseless" the rumours that Army chief Asim Munir plans to become the next President. The Army's response came following rumours and a wave of disinformation on social media during the previous weeks that Mr. Munir plans to replace President Asif Ali Zardari. PTI

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka detains Shasheendra Rajapaksa on corruption charge

AFP

Sri Lanka's anti-corruption authorities arrested a member of the once-powerful Rajapaksa family on Wednesday, accusing him of illegally claiming reparations for property loss when his uncle was toppled as President three years ago. Shasheendra Rajapaksa is a former Minister and nephew of Mr. Mahinda and Mr. Gotabaya. AFP

WASHINGTON

Five soldiers injured in shooting at U.S. military base; suspect held

AP

A shooter wounded five soldiers at Fort Stewart before being apprehended by law enforcement on Wednesday, the U.S. military base said. "All soldiers were treated on-site and moved to Winn Army Community Hospital for further treatment," said the social media page of the base, located in Georgia. AFP

Trump moots Vance's name as Republican pick for 2028

U.S. President floats the idea of the Vice-President teaming up with Secretary of State Marco Rubio to create a formidable Republican ticket; Trump not to seek a third term, though he wanted to

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump suggested on Tuesday Vice-President J.D. Vance is "most likely" to secure the Republican party nomination for President in 2028.

Mr. Trump has avoided naming a preferred successor and said in February that, while Mr. Vance was "very capable," it was too soon to make such calls.

Asked on Tuesday whether Mr. Vance was the heir-apparent to his Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement, Mr. Trump told reporters: "Well, I think most likely."

"In all fairness, he's the Vice President," he said.

The remarks followed speculation that Mr. Trump might attempt to defy constitutional limits and seek a third term.

Heavyweight: J.D. Vance, left, acts as the chief domestic policy advocate and a key diplomatic envoy in the Trump government. AFP

"It's too early, obviously, to talk about it, but certainly he's doing a great job," Mr. Trump said. "And he would be probably favoured at this point."

Mr. Trump also floated the idea of Vance teaming up with Secretary of State Marco Rubio to create a formidable Republican ticket.

"I think Marco is also somebody that maybe would get together with JD in some form," Mr. Trump said.

Mr. Trump has suggested serving another term several times, despite the U.S. Constitution limiting Presidents to two terms.

T-shirts emblazoned with "Trump 2028" and "Rewrite the rules" continue to be sold on Mr. Trump's official online store.

However, Mr. Trump said on *CNBC*'s *Squawk Box* on Tuesday he would "probably not" seek a third term.

"I'd like to," he said. "I'd like to run. I have the best poll numbers I've ever had."

Mr. Vance, a former Marine and lawyer, has taken on a prominent role in the administration, acting as chief domestic policy advocate and key diplomatic envoy.

Putin holds 'constructive' talks with U.S. envoy ahead of sanctions deadline

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin held "constructive" talks with U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff in Moscow on Wednesday, the Kremlin said, two days ahead of a U.S. deadline for Russia to halt its Ukraine offensive or face fresh sanctions.

U.S. President Donald Trump, who had boasted he could end the conflict within 24 hours of taking office, has given Russia until Friday to make progress towards peace or face new penalties.

But three rounds of Russia-Ukraine talks in Istanbul have failed to make headway on a ceasefire, with the two sides far apart in their demands.

Russia has escalated drone and missile attacks against its pro-Western neighbour to a record high and accelerated its advance on the ground.

New leaf: Vladimir Putin, left, and U.S. President Donald Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff meet in Moscow on Wednesday. AP

"A quite useful and constructive conversation took place," Mr. Putin's aide Yuri Ushakov told journalists after the three hour meeting.

Mr. Putin and Mr. Witkoff exchanged "signals" on their positions, Mr. Ushakov said, without elaborating.

The Kremlin released video of Mr. Putin shaking hands with Mr. Witkoff at the start of the meeting.

Ahead of the talks, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged Washington to increase its pressure on Moscow to agree to a ceasefire.

Sanctions threat

The White House has not outlined what action it would take against Russia, but Mr. Trump has previously threatened to impose "secondary tariffs" targeting Russia's key trade partners, such as China and India.

The move would aim to stifle Russian exports, but would risk significant international disruption.

Mr. Trump said on Tuesday that he would await the outcome of the Moscow talks before ordering any economic sanctions.

"We are going to see what happens," he told reporters. "We will make that determination at that time."

Without explicitly naming Mr. Trump, the Kremlin on Tuesday slammed "threats" to hike tariffs on Russia's trading partners as "illegitimate".

Russia's campaign against Ukraine since February 2022 has killed tens of thousands of people, destroyed swathes of the country and forced millions of people to flee their homes.

Nawrocki, backed by Trump, assumes Polish presidency

Associated Press
WARSAW

Conservative Karol Nawrocki was inaugurated on Wednesday as Poland's new President, which could set the country on a more nationalist course and cast doubt on the viability of the centrist government of Prime Minister Donald Tusk.

Most day-to-day power in Poland rests with the Prime Minister, chosen by parliament. However, the President holds the power to influence foreign policy and veto laws.

Mr. Nawrocki, who was supported by U.S. President Donald Trump ahead of a narrow victory in a run-off election in June, is a 42-year-old historian who had no political experience prior to campaigning.

Karol Nawrocki

"I will of course support relations within the European Union, but I will never agree to the European Union taking competences away from Poland, especially in matters that are not enshrined in the European treaties," he said.

'Israeli military is directed to execute govt. orders on Gaza'

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

The Israeli military will have to execute any government decisions on Gaza, the Defence Minister said on Wednesday after reported disagreements over the prospect of a full occupation of the Palestinian territory.

The Israeli press has predicted an escalation of operations, including in densely populated areas where hostages are believed to be held, such as Gaza City and refugee camps. The reports also said Mr. Netanyahu and his Cabinet would order a full military occupation of Gaza, sparking dissension from the Army's Chief of Staff, Eyal Zamir.

On Tuesday, Mr. Netanyahu held a restricted three-hour meeting with security chiefs, his office said in a statement. At the meeting, Mr. Zamir reportedly warned that a full occupation would be like "walking into a trap".

The Army chief suggested alternatives to a full occupation, such as an encirclement of specific areas where Hamas is believed to be hunkering down.

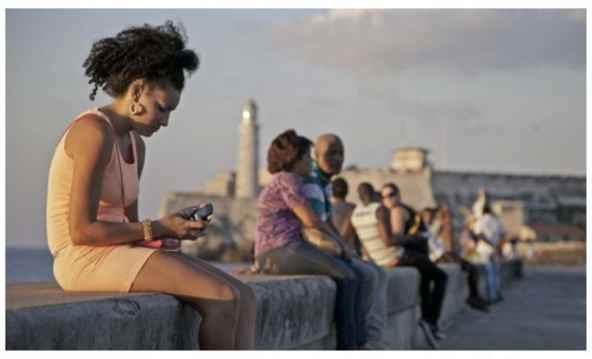
But Defence Minister Israel Katz hit back with a message. "It is the right and duty of the Chief of Staff to express his position in the appropriate forums," he wrote. "But once decisions are made by the political echelon, the IDF will execute them with professionalism," he added.

Cuban activists complain of detentions on the anniversary of 1994 anti-Castro protest

Agence France-Presse
HAVANA

Activists, journalists and relatives of jailed dissidents say they were briefly detained or prevented from leaving their homes by state security agents on Tuesday on the anniversary of the "Maleconazo," the largest protest Fidel Castro faced during his rule.

On August 5, 1994, hundreds of people took to the streets of Havana's Malecon waterfront to protest, an event that triggered the rafter crisis during which many Cubans fled by sea to the U.S. The government attributed the protests to incitement by Radio Marti, a Washington-funded station that broadcasts news into Cuba.



Old scores: On August 5, 1994, hundreds of people took to the streets of Havana's Malecon waterfront to protest. FILE PHOTO

Nearly five years after Castro's death, historic protests shook the island on July 11, 2021. The government claims those marches were also orchestrated by Washington.

President Miguel Diaz-Canel said the "Maleconazo" anniversary was a reminder that "there will always be dark forces lurking against a genuine Revolution in difficult moments".

Tuesday saw "surveillance, house arrests, arbitrary detention, and selective internet shutdowns," according to Cubalex, a Miami-based NGO.

The government "activated its repressive apparatus" said Yoani Sanchez, director of independent newspaper 14ymedio.

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF RAJASTHAN
Reaccredited to Grade A++by NAAC
Category-I Status by UGC
Advt. No.CURAJ/R/.167/Rectt./2025/1494 Date: 25.07.2025
Online Application Invited For
18 TEACHING POSITIONS (Direct Recruitment)
Architecture | Atmospheric Science | Bio Medical Engineering | Cardiology | Culture & Media Studies | Economics | Electronics and Communication Engineering | English | Physics | Social Work | Society Technology Interface | Statistics
For more details, visit : www.curaj.ac.in Registrar

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : 2/2025-26/SRI/NTR; JJM 2022-23- Procurement of Ion Chromatograph at State Referral Institute for Water Quality Nettoor; EMD : Rs. 50000 ; Tender fee : Rs. 2755 ; Last Date for submitting Tender : 30-08-2025, 03:00 pm ; Phone : 8547605718.
Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Superintending Engineer
SRI Circle
Nettoor
KWA-JB-GL-6-265-2025-26

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS-TIRUPATI
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-tenders are invited for OUTSOURCING OF RIMMING WORK with tape pasting to TTD In-House Calendars-2026 i.e., SV(Big), SV&SP, SP (Big), Local & Outside Temples etc., Calendars-2026. For further details please long on to the web site http://www.tirumala.org and https: // tender.ap.eprocurement.gov.in.
For further details contact: 0877-2264355 (or) 0877-2264292.
TTD-40021/10/2025-PRO SEC (Adv.No.160) Date:06-08-2025 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

V.O.Chidambaranar Port Authority
Civil Engineering Department
Tuticorin-628 004.
SAGARMALA
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

#	Name of the work	Estimated cost Put to tender value (Amount in INR)	Cost of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (Amount in INR)	Online Tender opening date
1.	Installation of Go Green Welcome Boards on the roadside at VOC Port	24,80,200/-	49,604/-	19.08.2025
2.	Renovation of Footpath at Link Road in VOC Port	26,03,960/-	52,080/-	26.08.2025
3.	Widening of Guest House road & Jawaharlal Nehru road and Improvement works for Foot path of JN Road at VOC Port	4,59,53,983/-	9,19,080/-	28.08.2025
4.	Providing Reception Facilities for collection, transportation & disposal of hazardous waste from Port Calling Ships at VOC Port.	23,05,980 /-	Nil	29.08.2025

Note:
For eligible tenderers, downloading of bid documents from the NIC e-tendering website:
i) https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app
ii) https://www.vocport.gov.in
Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER
VOCPA

ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNION TERRITORY OF LAKSHADWEEP
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES)
KAVARATTI-682555, Phone: 04896 263650
Email:gnckavaratti@gmail.com
F.No. 5/45/2021-DHS, Dated: 01.08.2025
ADMISSION NOTICE
Government Nursing College Kavaratti invites applications from eligible candidates (10th & +2 Pass with Science) for admission in B.Sc Nursing (04 years Course) for the year 2025-26. The application form is available on the official website: www.lakshadweep.gov.in from 01.08.2025, 10 am to 15.08.2025, 05.00 pm.
Sd/- (M.BHARANI, DANICS)
DIRECTOR HEALTH SERVICES

Market Sounding Notice
(Kerala Solid Waste Management Projects, Local Self Government Department, Government of Kerala)
The KSWMP, under LSGD, Govt. of Kerala, intends to conduct a market sounding process for 30 TPD Bio-CNG project, including collection and transportation services of biodegradable waste at Changanassery Municipality, Kottayam district, Kerala through design, build & operate model (PPP basis) on August 13, 2025, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
We request experienced technology providers, equipment suppliers, collection and transportation service providers, contractors & operators including commercial banks and financial institutions, to participate in this process. More details are provided at KSWMP web page (www.kswmp.org)
(This advertisement is published in compliance with World Bank procurement guidelines)
D3/582/2025/I&PRD

Kerala Rural Employment & Welfare Society
(Govt. of Kerala Undertaking), Thiruvananthapuram
KREWS/A/330/2025 Date: 05-08-2025
Tender Notice for supply of
(1) Fully Automatic Programmable Paper Cutting Machine
E-Tender ID - 2025_DP_780065_1
(2) Automatic Binding Machine (Perfect Hotmelt) Simple Clamp
E-Tender ID - 2025_DP_780281_1
Competitive Tenders are invited
Sd/- SECRETARY

RAJASTHAN POLICE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD, JAIPUR
(Government of Rajasthan Undertaking) CIN NO. U45201RJ2013SGC083014, Regd. Office : 756, Police Head Quarter, Lal Kothi, Jaipur (Raj.), Phone: 0141-2740784, Fax: 0141-2744294, e-mail: rpidcl@rajasthan.gov.in
क्रमांक :- RPHCCL/469/NIT/2025-26/D-2216 दिनांक :- 04/08/2025
ई-निविदा सूचना सं0 20/2025-26
निम्न कार्यों के लिए राज्य/केन्द्र सरकार के अभियांत्रिकी विभागों/उपक्रमों में समकक्ष श्रेणी में पंजीकृत योग्य एवं अनुभवी संवेदकों से नियमानुसार तीन वर्षों की डीएलपी के अन्तर्गत निर्धारित प्रपत्र में 1 कार्य के लिए एकल बिड के तहत आमंत्रित की जाती है।

निविदा की कुल लागत	रूपये 394.71 लाख
ऑनलाईन निविदा फॉर्म मिलने की तारीख	05 अगस्त 2025 प्रातः 9.30 बजे से 14 अगस्त 2025 सायं 4.00 बजे तक
ऑनलाईन निविदा फॉर्म जमा कराने की तारीख	14 अगस्त 2025 सायं 6.00 बजे तक
ऑनलाईन निविदा खोलने की तारीख	18 अगस्त 2025 सायं 4.00 बजे

निविदा सम्बन्धित जानकारी राजस्थान पुलिस की बेबसाइट www.police.rajasthan.gov.in/ www.sppp.raj.nic.in एवं http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर भी उपलब्ध रहेगी। इच्छुक संवेदको को निविदा संबंधित जानकारी प्रबन्ध निदेशक कार्यालय से कार्यालय समय में प्राप्त की जा सकती है। भविष्य में निविदाओं में संशोधन होने पर उपरोक्त वेबसाइटों पर ही प्रेषित किया जावेगा।
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BACK HOME

India pacer Siraj arrives in Hyderabad to a hero's welcome

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

India pacer Mohammed Siraj landed in Hyderabad on Wednesday after a stellar show in the Test series against England. Siraj, along with fielding coach T. Dilip, first landed in Mumbai from London before heading to their home base. He was dressed in dapper black casuals, and a group of fans gave him a joyous welcome.

PURPLE PATCH

India captain Gill shortlisted for ICC PoTM award

GETTY IMAGES

India Test captain Shubman Gill was on Wednesday named among the three nominees for ICC's Player of the Month award for July, along with South Africa's Wiaan Mulder and England's Ben Stokes. "Gill had a sensational month, amassing 567 runs at an average of 94.50 in three Tests during India's series in England," the ICC posted.

FRANKLY SPEAKING

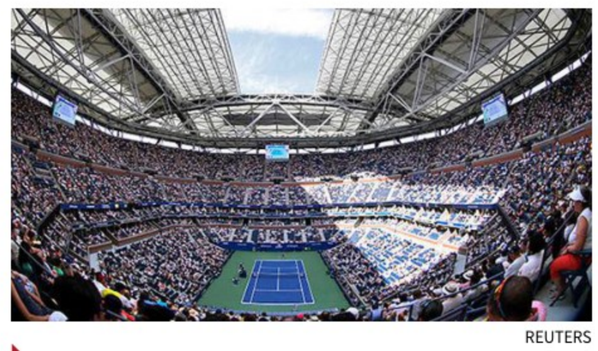
Root should have been England's Player-of-the-Series, says Brook

GETTY IMAGES

Harry Brook disagreed with India coach Gautam Gambhir's decision to name him as England's Player-of-the-Series, saying the honour should've gone to Joe Root. "I didn't score as many runs as Rooty. I think he should be Man-of-the-Series — and Man-of-the-Summer again, like he has been for many years," Brook told the *BBC*.

BONANZA

U.S. Open announces increase in prize money to around $85 million



REUTERS

The prize money at the U.S. Open tennis tournament will rise to nearly $85 million across all competitions this year, including a record $5 million each to the women's and men's singles champions. The total player compensation will jump 20% to $90 million, the most in the sport's history.

Singled out: Greg Chappell wants a more restrained approach from Brook. GETTY IMAGES

Chappell tears into the Bazball approach

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

"Positive cricket doesn't mean reckless cricket," Australian great Greg Chappell said, lambasting England's Bazball philosophy during the high-intensity drawn Test series against India.

In his column for *ESPNCricinfo*, Chappell criticised the Englishmen, particularly Harry Brook, for failing to read situations which required perseverance instead of flashy strokeplay.

"England's own journey in this series presents a cautionary subplot – one embodied by the brilliant but mercurial Harry Brook, whose virtues I have extolled publicly before," Chappell said.

"He has time, range, confidence, and that rare gift of making batting look effortless. But cricket, particularly Test cricket, is not just about shot-making. It's about judgment. About recognising when the moment demands attack - and when it demands restraint," he added.

England was 301 for three in pursuit of 374 when the Brook's dismissal triggered a collapse on the fourth day of the fifth Test in London that the home side lost by six runs.

"Brook's dismissal at The Oval was symptomatic of the conundrum that is facing the England setup. The Bazball philosophy – of fearless, attacking cricket – has revitalised their Test side. But it cannot become an excuse to avoid doing the hard yards.

"All England needed was for one batter to hold his nerve.Brook went for the glory shot and perished. Positive cricket doesn't mean reckless cricket. It means confident, calculated risk-taking."

Chappell said a more restrained approach in challenging match situations would help Brook establish himself as a worthy successor to Joe Root.

India winning without Bumrah is just a coincidence: Tendulkar

The pace ace's quality remains exceptional and unbelievable, says the legendary cricketer; lavishes praise on Washington for his crucial contributions in the series against England

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Batting great Sachin Tendulkar feels that India winning two Tests against England in Jasprit Bumrah's absence was a mere "coincidence" and the talismanic pace spearhead's quality remains "exceptional and unbelievable".

Bumrah played three of the just-concluded five-Test series in which a relatively inexperienced India eked out a creditable 2-2 draw.

The two games that India won did not feature Bumrah due to a pre-decided workload management plan.

Tendulkar said India emerging victorious at Birmingham and The Oval in Bumrah's absence was a matter of chance. He went on to highlight Bumrah's performances in the three Tests he played, fetching 14 wickets in all.

"Bumrah started off really well, got five wickets in the [first innings of the] first Test. He did not play the second Test, but [played] the third and the fourth Tests. Again, in [one of] those two Tests, he got a five-wicket haul," Tendulkar said in his video analysis of the series on Reddit.

On the ball: Tendulkar hailed Bumrah's consistency. GETTY IMAGES

"In the three Tests that he played, he picked up five wickets twice. I know that people are discussing a number of things, that we won those Tests in which he did not play. To me, that is just a coincidence.

"The quality of Bumrah is exceptional. What he has been able to do is just unbelievable so far. He has been a consistent performer without any doubt, and I would put him right at the top with anyone else," he added.

Tendulkar lavished praise on all-rounder Washington Sundar, who made crucial contributions throughout to help the team's cause.

"Whenever he has played, he has contributed. Even if you look at the second Test match, in the fourth innings he bowled a crucial ball to Ben Stokes just before lunch on the fifth day and got him out. To me, that was one of the turning points," Tendulkar said.

The Mumbai maestro also offered his take on the tense exchange that followed India's refusal to accept the draw offered by England captain Ben Stokes during the Manchester Test.

Tendulkar felt Ravindra Jadeja and Washington had every right to get to their hundreds and India's decision to continue was totally in "right spirit" despite a draw being the only possible result.

Pakistan cites security reasons, withdraws from Asia Cup hockey

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

The Pakistan men's hockey team will not be taking part in the Asia Cup to be held in Rajgir, Bihar, from August 29 to September 7, according to a Hockey India official.

Speaking to *The Hindu* on Wednesday, the Hockey India official said even though the Indian government was willing to provide visas for the Pakistan players, the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) refused to travel, citing security reasons.

Bangladesh invited

"In fact, PHF has written a letter to the Asian Hockey Federation on Wednesday, saying that it won't be able to compete in the Asia Cup due to security reasons. We have invited Bangladesh now," the official said.

Pakistan's participation in the competition – a qualifying event for the 2026 World Cup – had been uncertain given the continued tensions between the two nations, with the PHF making it clear that it had security concerns and even suggesting moving the tournament elsewhere as an option.

This was despite the Indian government's assurances in early July that no Pakistan team would be stopped from travelling to India.

Officials had claimed as late as July-end that the Pakistan team had already applied for visas. However, the Pakistan government had recently ordered that no invitation to travel to India should be accepted by any sports federation without its explicit approval.

The decision also casts a shadow on Pakistan's participation in the Junior World Cup to be held in Chennai and Madurai in November-December. Pakistan had also missed out on the JWC in 2016 - which India won - after the Pathankot and Uri terror attacks. Interestingly, Pakistan last travelled to India for the 2023 Asian Champions Trophy in Chennai, finishing fifth in the six-team competition.

(with inputs from Uthra Ganesan).

Siraj climbs 12 spots, reaches a career-best 15th rank

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

India pacer Mohammed Siraj jumped 12 spots to reach a career-best 15th position in the latest ICC Test rankings following his match-winning performance in the fifth and final Test against England at The Oval.

His earlier best was the 16th position in January last year. Jasprit Bumrah continued to lead the charts with 889 points.

Prasidh Krishna also achieved a career-high ranking of 59 after his superb performance in The Oval Test.

India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal returned to the top-5 in the batting rankings following his second century in the series at The Oval. With 792 points, he climbed three spots.

The only other India batter in the top-10 was Rishabh Pant, who slipped one spot to eighth.

Joe Root firmed up his position at the top while Harry Brook was in the second spot.

Super-sub Ahadad helps EBFC edge out Namdhari SA

DURAND CUP

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Moroccan substitute Hamid Ahadad's 68th minute goal helped Emami East Bengal FC beat Namdhari Sports Academy by a solitary goal in a Group-A match of the 134th Durand Cup tournament at the Salt Lake Stadium on Wednesday, to brighten its quarter-final chances.

With four foreigners in its ranks, East Bengal made a strong start and enjoyed around 70 per cent ball possession but that dominance was not reflected in the scoreline as its attackers failed to utilise the chances.

Namdhari also rode its luck seeing three attempts from the East Bengal forward Miguel Damasceno coming off the framework.

Ahadad, who came in as a 61st minute substitute, found the mark in the 68th minute from a Damasceno corner to secure the win for East Bengal, which now has six points from two wins with a match to go.

Heads-up: East Bengal pulled off a narrow win. DEBASISH BHADURI

Earlier, Indo-Tibetan Border Police football team held ISL side Punjab FC to a goalless draw in a Group-D match at the SAI Stadium in Kokrajhar.

The Punjab team earned a lot of scoring chances but its forwards muffed opportunities and allowed ITBP snatch a point from the goalless encounter. Both teams remained locked on top of the group standings with four points each from two matches and will now face local side Bodoland FC in their last group league matches.

The results: Group-A
(Kolkata): Emami East Bengal 1 (Hamid Ahadad 68) bt Namdhari SA 0.
Group-D (Kokrajhar): Punjab FC 0 drew with ITBP FT 0.

Chennai GM chess put off by a day after a fire accident

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

The Chennai Grand Masters chess tournament, scheduled to get underway on Wednesday (August 6) was postponed by a day due to an unexpected fire incident at the venue, Hyatt Regency.

The players, who were relocated to an alternative accommodation, are safe. The playing area remained unaffected and fully equipped to host the tournament.

"The safety of players and staff was our top priority. They were immediately shifted to a nearby venue for the night," said Sreeker Channapragada, co-founder, MGD1.

"We are doing our best to ensure everyone's safety while conducting the event seamlessly. The tournament will proceed from August 7 to 15 without a rest day in between, and we look forward to its success," added Channapragada.

The event will begin at 3 p.m. on Thursday.

Iniyan determined to keep his good form going

C. Shyam Sundar
CHENNAI

Grandmaster Pa Iniyan has been on a roll with five titles in 2025. And he wants to make the most of his good form.

The 22-year-old from Erode, who has prepared in earnest for the Chennai Grand Masters tournament here, is eyeing a triumph in the Challengers' section and a spot in next year's Masters' category.

Iniyan, who recently won the second Dole Open International title in Aix-en-Provence, France, says he wants to keep getting better and boost his rating.

"This year, I have won five Open tournaments, including the National Rapid title. My rating had increased in the last year and I want to keep increasing it," he told *The Hindu*.

Saying that he doesn't have specific targets in mind, Iniyan remarked, "I am very close to 2600 rating (2586) now. I want to breach the 2600-mark.

"The long-term goal is always going to be much higher.

The big picture: Iniyan is aiming to win the Challengers crown at the Chennai Grand Masters and boost his rating.

"This year has been going better than expected. Hope to continue in the same vein," said Iniyan who began 2025 with a triumph in the Chennai Open. He is gunning for the top prize in the Chennai GM tournament.

"I am playing in the Challengers. As there are a few 2600 (three players) and a couple around 2450, I will be in the middle of the pack. I will go for a win."

After the event in Chennai, Iniyan will feature in the Abu Dhabi Masters and the chess World Cup in India, in which he hopes to do well.

Pat for Divya, Humpy

Terming Divya Deshmukh's victory in the FIDE World Cup in Batumi as phenomenal, the Tamil Nadu GM said both Divya and runner-up Koneru Humpy had defeated some very strong players on the way.

INBRIEF

Son finalises his move to MLS, to join Los Angeles FC

Son Heung-min agreed to a contract with Los Angeles FC on Tuesday, finalising his move to Major League Soccer after a decade at Tottenham. LAFC reportedly paid a transfer fee of more than $20 million, which could end up being the most ever for an MLS move. He is joining LAFC three days after he announced he was leaving Spurs.

Jharkhand to take on Punjab in the final

Punjab upset defending champion Uttar Pradesh 4-3 in the semifinals of the National sub-junior men's hockey championship in Chennai on Wednesday. In the other last four clash, Jharkhand defeated Madhya Pradesh 3-1.

The results: Semifinals: Jharkhand 3 (Soreng Sumray 29, Kandulna Jaysan 56, Purti Ashish Tani 44) bt Madhya Pradesh 1 (Love 21); Punjab 4 (Mandeep Singh 19, Varinder Singh 28, Sukhdev Sing 51 & 52) bt Uttar Pradesh 3 (Harsh Pratap Singh 9, Shahrukh Ali 21, Ketan Kushwaha 28).

LIVE TELECAST

Zimbabwe vs NZ: 2nd Test, day 1, FanCode, 1.30 p.m.
Football: Durand Cup, Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 4 & 7 p.m.
Tennis: Cincinnati Open, Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 8.30 p.m.

Crucial ranking points at stake for Indian athletes

The Continental Tour Bronze event will be held in Bhubaneswar from Aug. 10 but some events, which had a medal potential for the country, are missing because of World Athletics guidelines

ATHLETICS

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

The first-ever World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze event will be held in Bhubaneswar on August 10 but quite a few prominent names will be missing in action from the competition that will provide crucial ranking points for Indian athletes.

The one-day event at the Kalinga Stadium, jointly organised by the Odisha government and the Athletics Federation of India with a prize money of $25,000, will see 160 athletes from 17 countries, including 97 Indians, participate in 18 track and field events.

"It is mandatory to include one throwing and one jumping event and the competition should have a minimum of 12 disciplines, including five for women," AFI president Bahadur Singh Sagoo said on Wednesday, explaining the rationale behind the selection of events.

Much at stake: Sachin will strive to attain the World Championships qualifying mark of 85.50m. AFP

"The events were identified by the AFI keeping the World Athletics guidelines which specify the competition duration is two hours and 30 minutes."

Some of those missing from the schedule include the 3000m steeplechase and high jump, which had the potential for an Indian medal.

There will be no 100m relay teams either, although the 4x400m teams will participate in men, women and mixed categories.

On the other hand, the likes of Gurindervir Singh, Manikanta Hoblidhar, Kishore Jena and Gulveer Singh won't be participating for various reasons.

"Kishore is still not fit and Gulveer is training and participating abroad. The best-placed Indians on current form as on July 12 were considered," JOA secretary Madhukant Pathak explained.

Among those confirmed are long jumpers M. Sreeshankar and Jeswin Aldrin and National 800m record-holder Mohd. Afsal.

Animesh Kujur and Amlan Borgohain will lead the sprint challenge in both 100m and 200m while Sachin Yadav would be hoping to clear the automatic World Championships qualifying mark of 85.50m in javelin throw.

Interestingly, while the foreign athletes will be representing their countries, the Indian athletes will be representing their respective States or the organisations.

"The relay teams, however, will be fielded as the India team and if they manage to set a new record, it will be registered as the Indian record," AFI treasurer and technical committee member Stanley Jones explained.

New venture: Ramji, Robin, Kumaran and Balaji during the launch on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Robin Singh Relations CA in Dubai, Bengaluru, and the U.K.

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Former India cricketer and international coach Robin Singh on Wednesday announced the launch of 'Robin Singh Relations Cricket Academy' in Dubai, Bengaluru, and the U.K., in strategic collaboration with partners in India and England.

The former all-rounder has designed the programme and will oversee every aspect of it alongside some reputed ex-international cricketers.

Former India pacers L. Balaji, Debashish Mohanty and T. Kumaran, legendary West Indies cricketers Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Curtly Ambrose, and former Tamil Nadu player Tanveer Jabbar will be part of the coaching panel.

Former India trainer Ramji Srinivasan is also part of the core faculty.

"A defining feature of the RSR Cricket Academy is its 'Play More, Train Less' philosophy.

"Players will participate in assured weekly practice matches and be promoted into intra- and inter-school tournaments, prioritising real-game experience alongside structured coaching.

"No tall promises, just simple cricket," added Robin.

Chennaiyin temporarily suspends operations

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Two-time Indian Super League champion Chennaiyin FC has temporarily suspended operations in light of the continuing uncertainty surrounding the future of the ISL, according to a release from the club on X on Wednesday.

"These are never easy decisions to make, and ours has come after much thoughtful consideration and careful deliberation," the statement read.

"We hope that this pause will be short-lived and that we can return to doing what we love as soon as there is clarity for all clubs. Throughout this uncertainty, our commitment to the growth of Indian football – upon which this journey began – remains as strong as ever," the statement added.

Will it, won't it? After a series of near misses, Arsenal needs its stars to deliver. REUTERS

Arsenal has 'belief' to end trophy drought, says coach Arteta

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said the Gunners believe this season will be different as they aim to get over a series of near misses at winning silverware.

Arteta has not won a trophy since lifting the FA Cup in his debut season in charge in 2019/20. However, he has transformed Arsenal back into serial contenders for major trophies. Arteta's men have finished second in the Premier League for the past three years and reached the Champions League semifinals for the first time since 2009 last season.

Nearly £200 million has been spent on striker Viktor Gyokeres, midfielders Martin Zubimendi and Christian Norgaard, centre-back Cristhian Mosquera as well as winger Noni Madueke and goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga.

"We know what we want to achieve this season – there is a big belief in our ability," Arteta said.

Neeraj, Ishan, Yatri and Priya punch their way into the finals

BOXING

Press Trust of India
BANGKOK

Neeraj, Ishan Kataria, Yatri Patel and Priya reached the finals of the U-22 Asian Boxing Championships here on Wednesday.

Neeraj relied on his speed and counter-attacking skills to defeat Kyeongho Bang of South Korea 5-0 in the men's 75kg category, while Ishan Kataria dominated China's Chen Chen in the men's 90+kg, with his big punches forcing the referee to stop the contest in the third round.

In the women's section, Yatri Patel reached the 57kg final by using a combination of left-right punches to dominate Vietnam's Thi Nhung Quand and win 5-0.

Priya also came up with a dominating performance to overpower Uzbekistan's Odinakhon Ismoilova to reach the 60kg final.

Dominant: Priya pummelled Ismoilova into submission in the 60kg semifinals. FLICKR/ASIAN BOXING

Rockey Chaudhary's bout against Iran's Sam Estaki was stopped in the second round as he suffered cuts over both his eyebrows.

Harsh (60kg) and Mayur (90kg) took the fight to their respective opponents but could not finish on the right side of the split verdict.

Harsh went down 1-4 against Uzbekistan's Shohruh Abdumalikov, Mayur lost to Shakhzod Polvonov from the same country and Ankush went down 0-5 to Sanzhar-Ali Begaliyev of Kazakhstan.

Among the women, Bhawna Sharma went down against Robiyakhon Bakhtiyorova of Uzbekistan in the 48kg category, while Parthavi Grewal (60kg), Parnjal Yadav (65kg) and Shruti (75kg) also lost their semifinal bouts.

All the losing semifinalists will bring home a bronze medal.

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THE HINDU GROUP

Shaping the future of Coimbatore's growth

Coimbatore In Focus: The Smart Investment Corridor-held on July 31 in Chennai as part of Coimbatore Unlimited 3.0-spotlighted the city's transformation into a dynamic hub for innovation, strategic investments, and lifestyle-led growth. The panel brought together thought leaders, industry veterans, and engaged citizens in a meaningful exchange of ideas that are set to shape Coimbatore's next wave of progress.

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